



The wonderful smiling faces in this picture belong to students from Kamaishi City, which is an Australian Host Town for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games!

Tomodachi, as many of our readers would know, means friend or friends. Creating ties of friendship is just what the **Australian Olympic Connect ともだち 2020** program aims to do. Tomodachi / ともだち 2020 is connecting Australian and Japanese schools to celebrate the shared Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence ahead of the Tokyo Games.

This great initiative is the first time any National Olympic Committee has brought together schools in their home country and those in the Games host country.

At the time of writing the ともだち 2020 Pilot Program (24 Aug.-31 Oct.) is enabling more than 1,500 students in 40 schools across Japan and Australia to engage in cultural exchange. For schools unable to travel to their sister schools this year due to COVID-19, ともだち 2020 must be particularly welcome.

www.olympics.com.au/community-and-schools/australian-olympic-connect-2020/

Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

Consul-General Kiya writes a fortnightly online newsletter. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to introduce various activities he engages in as Consul-General and to share some of his thoughts and feelings as he goes about his duties. He hopes that through these newsletters more people will learn about the multi-faceted connections between Australia and Japan. Since the last issue, he has written on the following topics:

- No.26 **Japanese Food Stores and Japanese Restaurants in Sydney: Transcending Cultures** (October 10, 2020)
- No.25 **Australia's Energy Policy: Importance of Cooperation with Japan** (October 8, 2020)
- No.24 **Three Japanese Organisations in Sydney: Supporting the Japanese Community in a Multicultural Society** (Sept. 19, 2020)
- No.23 **Government House Sydney and Japan** (September 4, 2020)
- No.22 **75th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War: From Enemies to Friends** (August 21, 2020)
- No.21 **Capitalizing on the strength of the Japanese private sector in Australia for the planet: Latest business developments in NSW** (August 7, 2020)
- No.20 **Japanese language education in Australia: Fostering Japan-Australia exchange and cooperation** (July 27, 2020)
- No.19 **Cowra as a Bridge between Australia and Japan** (July 10, 2020)

All previous issues are available online: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html

Also available in the Japanese-language original: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html