

Kinko Bay Tidings ~ Winter 2020 Edition

Hirakawa Zoological Park Organises Fund Raising Activities for Australian Wild Koalas

Australia is currently being ravaged by one of the worst wildfires seen globally in decades, with large areas of the country being devastated since the fire season began as early as August in 2019, within the winter season in the southern hemisphere. To date, more than 2,100 houses have been destroyed and 28 people have died. In total, more than 18 million hectares have been burned across Australia and this number is only expected to increase as the drought and heat persists throughout the summer. As many as 1 billion animals in Australia are believed to have perished within this natural disaster, including thousands of Koalas, and approximately 80% of their habitat has been destroyed due to the fires.



In response to this the Hirakawa Zoological Park in Kagoshima City, which keeps more koalas than any other zoological park in Japan, has set up fund raising activities to assist with Australia's wildlife protection. According to the Hirakawa Zoological Park Breeding and Display Section Manager, the money will go towards the forest renaturation and for the treatment and rehabilitation for koalas who have suffered burns throughout this crisis.



A donation box has been set up at the entrance gate of the Hirakawa Zoological Park. Registered mail for sending cash is also accepted at the following address:

*Koala Fund Raising, Hirakawa Zoological Park, 5669-1 Hirakawa-cho Kagoshima City
〒891-0133*

Christmas Illumination in Kagoshima City.

Kagoshima City was once again beautifully decorated with Christmas lighting over the winter period. Among many illuminated areas throughout the city over the winter period, the top two sites recommended for those residing in or visiting Kagoshima are as follows:

Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima

Situated on Shiroyama Mountain 108m above sea level, Shiroyama Hotel overlooks Kagoshima City and offers a commanding view of Sakurajima, the symbol of Kagoshima and Kinko Bay.

It is not only one of the best hotels in all of Kagoshima, but also hosts some of the best displays of festive lighting over the Christmas period, including the "Fantasy of Winter Illumination lights" and "Hill of Happiness", which are held on the outside premises of the hotel. An approximate

170,000 various coloured lights and fountain streams are set up to match the rhythm of popular Christmas Carols. For those looking for romance, anyone would be entranced by the atmosphere.



The “Fantasy Garden” has a fountain that changes into seven different colours and its main tree, 10 meters in height that is wrapped in blue and cyan decorations. Other decorated areas include but are not limited to the *Horse Carriage of Happiness* and *Happiness Clover*. The must see “Gold Garden” entails a tree in the centre that is wrapped with golden decorative lights, while the stairs sparkle with

beautiful ball-shaped lights. What’s more, these beautiful illuminations will continue for an entire 4 months! Every evening from Sunday, October 27th 2019 until February 29th 2020, every night between 17:30 and 23:00.

Special accommodation plans are also on offer at Shiroyama Hotel during the winter period.

For more information contact Shiroyama Hotel on 0570-07-4680

Minato-Odori Park

The Christmas illumination began on the first day of December at Minato-Odori Park in Kagoshima City, in front of the main building of the Kagoshima City Hall. The trees, fountains and sculptures throughout the park that are lightened up with an incredible 120,000 lights, offering a truly wondrous spectacle.

Onlookers including families and couples enjoyed the excitement of music and performances, prior to the official beginning of the illumination period after which cheers and applause began as the entire park was illuminated simultaneously. Every evening the Minato-Odori Park goes dark before the lights are turned on all at once at 19:00, 20:00 and 21:00pm. The Minato-Odori Park illumination will be on display every evening from December 1st 2019 between 18:00 to 22:00.

The Japanese Odyssey results

The cycling event “The Japanese Odyssey” Took place from Saturday, October 12th 2019 for the 5th edition, this time starting from the Sakurajima Peninsula in the Kinko Bay of Kagoshima. The event entails passing through 14 mandatory checkpoints throughout Kyushu, Shikoku and the Japanese Alps, finishing 10 days later in Tokyo after more than 2200km of riding.





The Japanese Odyssey is stated to be an endurance cycling event, not a race. It's about discovery, exploring and challenging yourself. Founder of the event Emmanuel Bastian reported it to be a brilliant experience giving the entrants fantastic memoirs of their time biking through Japan. Mr. Bastian also thanked the staff of the Kagoshima City Hall and the Rainbow Lodge for organising the pre-event and departure ceremony at Sakurajima.

“Kagoshima City's support, contribution and help were invaluable. For many of the entrants it was their first time in Japan, and talking with them you could feel their joy of being their astonishment and surprise at discovering a country different to what they expected from the usual clichés associated with Japan. In Europe the country is often associated with huge tumultuous cities, but it has so much more to offer.”

Of the 53 riders, 22 made it to the final destination Tokyo and through the imposed control points on time, while 30 riders arrived at a later date or had to get to Tokyo by train to be on time for the arrival party. One rider completed the event in as little as 7 days. Mr. Bastian has already begun discussing the plan of once again beginning the TJO in Kagoshima for the 2020 edition. “After speaking with my partner and some other riders, we really wanted to come back to Kagoshima as the City is Japan's southernmost major city, it's the perfect choice for the start of the event. I am really looking forward to it.



**Japanese Odyssey photos by Tonegawa Yukihide*

About Kinko Bay Tidings

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