

# Autumn Gathering at Australia House

Experience the beautiful sights and wonderful flavours of Echigo Tsumari in late autumn, through a Japan-Australia culture exchange program. Features workshops, lessons, and a sports festival with local people from the Urada area.



Autumn has arrived in the Echigo Tsumari/Urada region, where Australia House is located. Here, autumn is a time for people to recover from the physical energy expended on the rice harvest, and to spend some time enjoying the flavours of the season as they prepare for the winter. It's the most relaxing season of the year.

Australia House will hold its 'Autumn Gathering' as an opportunity for people to interact with local Urada residents, while enjoying the essence of autumn in the countryside, during this two-day program.

Activities include workshops to create seasonal handmade goods under the instruction of local Urada teachers, lessons in Australian cooking, and other workshops at Australia House. Another characteristic autumn event in Japan is the school sports festival. The Autumn Gathering will include a sports festival with classic games like tug-of-war and *tama-ire* (ball toss), for Japanese and Australian participants to have fun together through physical activity. Guests will then be treated to obento boxes made with new crop rice and delicious autumn specialties. Participants can choose which day and which programs they would like to join.

We hope to make this autumn weekend an opportunity for many people from both Japan and Australia in the Echigo Tsumari/Australia House/Nunagawa/Urada area to enjoy each other's cultures. Please invite your friends to join in too.

■ **Dates:** Sunday 1 and Tuesday 3 November (\*public holiday), 2015

■ **Locations:** Australia House (7577 Urada, Tokamachi)

The old Urada Primary School gym (979 Urada, Tokamachi)

The Urada Experience & Exchange Centre (975-4 Urada, Tokamachi)

Nunagawa Campus (576 Muro, Tokamachi)

\*Urada Regional Learning Centre 'Hantate' (7575 Urada, Tokamachi)

■ **Workshops & lessons**      **【Sunday 1 November, Tuesday 3 November】**

	Program name & details	Date & venue	Cost
<b>A</b>	<b>Australian food cooking class and luncheon</b> Learn how to make popular Australian foods like meat pies and pavlova, and eat the dishes you make for lunch. Instructor: owner of the Australian cuisine restaurant Mei (in Niigata) TBC	<b>1 Nov (Sun) 10:30~13:00</b> <b>Nunagawa Campus</b> <b>cooking room</b>	1500yen
<b>B</b>	<b>'Country flavours': make your own pickles</b> A workshop for learning how to make delicious <i>tsukemono</i> (pickled vegetables) from local produce, with ladies from the Urada area. Participants can take home the pickles they make. Instructors: Urada Women's Association	<b>1 Nov (Sun) 14:00~15:00</b> <b>Urada Regional</b> <b>Community Centre</b>	500yen
<b>C</b>	<b>'Country creations': make your own straw sandals</b> A local master will teach participants how to make two different types of straw sandals. Instructor: Mr Sato (Urada, Naka Tateyama)	<b>1 Nov (Sun) 14:00~16:00</b> <b>Australia House</b>	1000yen
<b>D</b>	<b>Lesson in Aboriginal art</b> Fram Kitagawa will teach participants about Aboriginal art using the panels from the Canning Stock Route exhibition, which were displayed at the Echigo Tsumari Art Triennale. Instructor: Fram Kitagawa	<b>3 Nov (Tues) 14:00~15:00</b> <b>Australia House</b> *If the participant number exceeds capacity the venue will be changed to 'Hantate' next door	500yen
<b>E</b>	<b>Australia House snow fences</b> Snowfalls of up to 4m are experienced in this area. A local architect will explain about the innovative snow fences used at Australia House, and participants will help to build them. (Includes tea and snacks during the break) Instructor: Mr Iizuka (president of Iizuka Architects)	<b>3 Nov (Tues) 15:20~16:00</b> <b>Australia House</b>	500yen

# ■Sports Festival, Lunch & Mini Concert

**【3 Nov (Tues) The old Urada Primary School gym】**

## ●MC: Urada Regional Youth Group/Sports Association

10 : 30~11 : 45 **Japan-Australia Sports Festival**

Guests interact with locals through typical Japanese sports festival activities, including an opening taiko drumming performance, tug-of-war, ball toss, and obstacle course

12:00~ **Lunch (new crop rice obentos)** (a slideshow of Urada and artists' interaction at the Echigo

Tsumari Art Triennale will be shown)

12:30~13 : 00 **Mini Concert** (Urada Taiko drumming), closing ceremony

**\*Cost: 1000yen** (includes obento lunch, drinks, participation prizes) **\*A shuttle bus to Australia House will be available after the event finishes**

■**To sign up:** Fill in the form and submit by email or fax, or apply over the phone to:

**Echigo Tsumari Art Field Office \*Applications close 25 October**

TEL:025-761-7767 FAX:025-761-7911 info@tsumari-artfield.com

■**Accommodation:** The office can arrange accommodation on your behalf at guest houses and ryokans in the Urada area from **Saturday 31 October to Tuesday 3 November**. If you need accommodation, please indicate as such on the application form.

■**Event hosted by:** NPO Echigo-Tsumari Satoyama Collective Organization

**Co-hosted by:** Urada Regional Council (Women's Association, Youth Group, Sports Association), Nunagawa region supporters

■**Shuttle bus times** (500yen return, 250yen one way; children primary school age and under free)

### Sun 1 Nov

<Outbound> Depart Tokamachi 9:50, arrive Nunagawa Campus 10:15

\*Example itinerary from Tokyo: Depart Tokyo 7:48, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 9:17, continuing to arrive at Tokamachi 9:42

<Afternoon> Depart Nunagawa Campus 13:20, arrive Urada Regional Community Centre 13:35, continuing to arrive at Australia House 13:50

<Return> Depart Australia House 16:00, arrive Urada Regional Community Centre 16:10, continuing to arrive at Matsudai 16:35

\*Example itinerary to Tokyo: Depart Matsudai 16:47, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 17:30, continuing to arrive at Tokyo 19:00

### Tues 3 Nov

<Outbound> Depart Tokamachi 9:50, arrive at the old Urada Primary School 10:25

\*Example itinerary from Tokyo: Depart Tokyo 7:48, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 9:17, continuing to arrive at Tokamachi 9:42

<Afternoon> Depart Urada Primary School 13:30, arrive Australia House 13:45

<Return> Depart Australia House 16:10, arrive Matsudai 16:35

\*Example itinerary to Tokyo: Depart Matsudai 16:47, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 17:30, continuing to arrive at Tokyo 19:00

■**If travelling by car**

Each venue has its own car park or a place where cars can be parked.