

What's New?


Niihama City

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You can read **What's New** on the Web.

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Naked ambition By Jaclyn Bates



Although I can't remember the event, I'm almost certain I was born naked...and not really minding. My parents proudly display the obligatory nude photo of me as a child at the beach, looking mighty pleased with myself, like a very cheesy advertisement for sunscreen. Evidently, a lot has changed since then.

I come from a culture where nudity in public is pretty much relegated to very drunk people triumphantly running across the field at various sporting events, until being tackled to the ground by either security or sportsmen in front of a jeering crowd. (How's that for an instant penalty?) Early on, I mastered the art of changing clothes at the beach, whilst firmly clamping a towel in my teeth to make an impromptu tent.

So when I came to Japan, the onsen was a fairly daunting prospect. I had great dreams of becoming completely fine with it, visiting on a regular basis, and reaping the benefits of glowing skin and silky hair. It took me a good few months to work up my nerve, but finally I gave in, and set off with a fairly equal mixture of high hopes and trepidation. As soon as I hit the change room, I started to question my decision. It's one thing to shimmy in and out of gym clothes in the locker room, another to take off on a naked stroll. It was only after I had showered, washed, and practically run into the closest bath, that I realized that the whole place was distinctly, well... stress-free. Children ran around and played, young

women gossiped, and grandmothers just sat back and soaked. I'd like to say it was a turning point for me.... but, as much as I could appreciate the carefree vibe, I just couldn't relax. I don't think it helped that my gaijin skin turned an alarming shade of beet red in the heat, or that I couldn't quite shake the paranoia that I'd be surrounded by a mob of my students, and be trapped in the tub, slowly poaching, until they took pity and left.

Shortly after this experience, the Niihama Guides took my friends and me to the most amazing onsen, in the hills behind Saijo, overlooking a lake and mountains. It was autumn and the leaves were changing, and the bath was perched on the edge of the mountain and blessedly empty. We laughed, took photos, and ordered each other not to look while we ran from the showers to the bath. The water was cloudy with minerals, the perfect cover up. We acted like five year olds. It was fantastic.

Obviously, as far as getting nude in public is concerned, I've got a ways to go. すみません!

Jaelyn Bates is from Brisbane, Australia. She's been living in Niihama for 10 months and working with children as an English teacher. She paints very well, and sings not so well.



How about contributing an article for “What’s New?”?

Any topic is fine, such as your self-introduction, your comments or your essay. Please feel free to make contact with :kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

SWINE FLU INFORMATION



Click



<http://www.jnto.go.jp/flu/eng.html>

the 7th JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

by the people learning Japanese

June 21(Sun) 13:30~17:00
at Fureai Plaza 2F
(the south of Niihama Police Station)
free entrance

JUNE EVENT

June 20(Sat) Niihama City

Swimming Pool Opening

Opening Day Special . . . free entrance fee

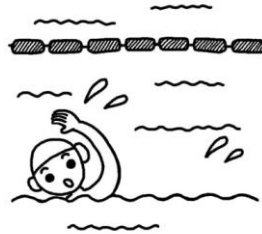
June 20~30 opening hours: 12:30~17:30(Mon-Fri)

9:30~17:30(Sat&Sun)

July 1~August 31 opening hours: 9:30~20:00

Fee: Adults ¥60 / 2 hours

JHS students and under ¥10 / 2 hours



June 21(Su) Sunday Flea Market

7:30~12:00 at Chuo Koen/Central Park
(in front of the City Hall)

International Travel News

shining light on Shikoku

<http://www.intltravelnews.com/2009/04/japan-%E2%80%94-shining-light-on-shikoku>

No More Free Plastic Shopping bag

Niihama City has taken a new step in order to be more eco-friendly with less emission of carbon dioxide gas through reducing the amount of plastic shopping bags. The following six big supermarkets stop giving you free plastic shopping bags from June 1. Please bring your own shopping bag or you have to pay ¥5 per bag. The six retailers consume 15 million shopping bags a year. By using your own shopping bags, you can help to save about 1100 drums of oil.

*Food Section of AEON Shopping Center

*Kimura Chain (3 branches)

*Co-op Ehime (5 branches)

*Fuji (3 branches)

*Max Value Nishi-no-doi

*Mamai (6 branches)

(as of May 15)



City Hall's subsidy to reduce kitchen garbage

City Hall is offering a subsidy to people wanting to buy a composter, a drain bin or an electric kitchen garbage disposer, either dryer type, bio type, or hybrid type.

It is hoped that the subsidy will help reduce the amount of kitchen garbage and promote its reuse as a fertilizer.

The amount of subsidy is up to half of the purchase price:

- up to 3000 yen for a composter or a drain bin,
- up to 20,000 yen for an electric kitchen garbage disposer.

This subsidy is available to people living in Niihama and they can apply by contacting Gomi-genryo-ka on the second floor of City Hall. Applicants will need their seal (Hanko) and once they receive official approval of the subsidy they can arrange purchase of a composter or a drain bin through either City Hall or a store designated by City Hall.

Electric kitchen garbage disposers can be bought at stores designated by City Hall.

Please ask Gomi-genryo-ka for a list of approved stores.

This subsidy will be available just within budget.

For further information contact Gomi-genryo-ka: TEL65-1252

(Excerpt from the monthly City News, Shisei Dayori, May, 2009)

MOVIES

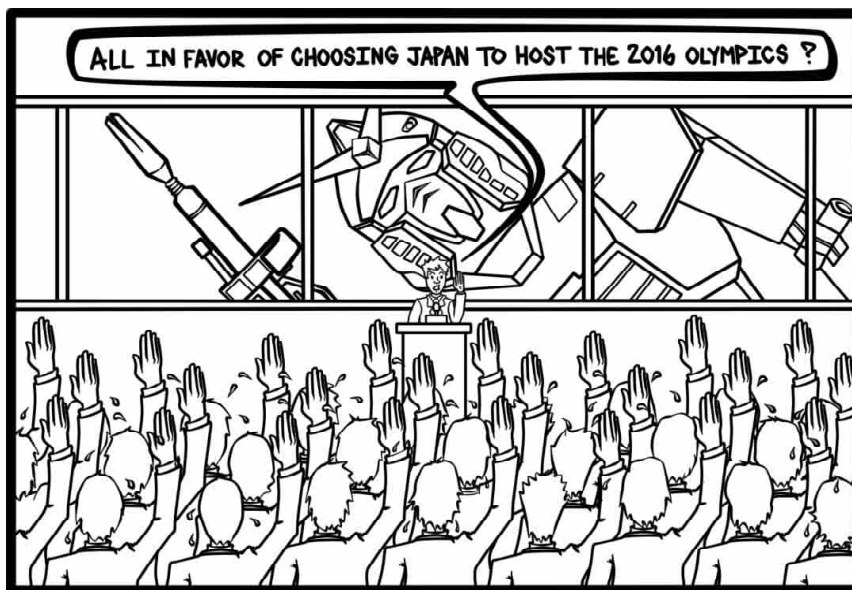
TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

May 15 ~	ANGELS & DEMONS	English/Dubbed
May 22 ~	STATE OF PLAY	English
May 29 ~	BLOOD THE LAST VAMPIRE	English
May 29 ~	STAR TREK	English
June 6 ~	I COME WITH THE RAIN	English
June 13 ~	Terminator Salvation	English
June 19 ~	The Reader	English
June 20 ~	Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen	English

Information Service

Tape (24hours) : 0897-35-3322

Internet: <http://toho.co.jp>



<Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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The editors for this month are XXXX & XXXX

ONE POINT JAPANESE

病気の表現(1)

- A : どうしたんですか。きょうは 元気が ないですね。
Dōshitan desu ka.
Kyō wa genki ga nai desu ne.
(What's wrong? You look a little under the weather today.)
- B : ええ。きのうから ちょっと かぜ 気味で・・・
Ee. Kinō kara chotto kazegimi de・・・
(Yes. I have had a slight cold since yesterday.)
- A : まさか、新型インフルエンザ じゃ ないですよ。
Masaka shingata infuruenza ja nai desu yo ne.
(Wait – It's not the new flu, right?)
- B : 大丈夫、大丈夫。Daijōbu, daijōbu. (It's OK, it's OK.)
最近 どこにも 出かけて いない し・・・
Saikin doko ni mo dekakete inai shi.
(Lately I haven't gone out anywhere...)
- A : 念のため、病院 で 診てもらった 方がいい かもしれませんよ。
Nen no tame, byōin de mitemoratta hō ga ii
kamoshiremasen yo.
(Just to be safe, it might be good to have them check you at
ahospital.)
- B : そうですね。とりあえず 今日 は マスク を 買って 帰ります。
Sōdesu ne. Toriaezu kyō wa masuku o katte kaerimasu.
(I think you're right. Anyway, I'll buy a mask on the way home
today.)
- A : えーっ！まだ 買って いない んですか。
Ee! Mada katte nain desuka.
(Oh no! You haven't bought them yet?)
マスク は どこも 売り切れ らしい ですよ。
Masuku wa dokomo urikire rashi desu yo.
(Masks seem to be sold out everywhere.)

新居浜弁で話してみよう！(2)

- A : どしたん。元気がないね。
Doshitan. Genki nai ne.
(What's wrong? You don't look so good.)
- B : ちょっと 熱っぽい よ。
Chotto netsuppoin yo. (I am a little feverish.)
咳 も 出よる けん、かぜ かもしれん。
Seki mo deyoru ken, kaze kamoshiren.
(I have a cough too so it might be a cold.)
- A : はよ 帰って 寝 と かん かい。
Hayo kaette netokan kai. (Hurry home and get to bed.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori).

e-mail : pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp