

# What's New?

NiihamaCity

No.227 July 2014  
Published by SGG Niihama



## Studying in Saijo

Laura Gingell

It's fair to say I had a pretty typical student experience when I attended university in New Zealand. Living in a messy apartment with five other students, dishes piled high on the bench, empty beer cans littering the porch, a bathroom that literally never got cleaned. Of course there was also the sleeping in, barely turning up to lectures and consequently stressing when exams eventually came around. It was great fun, I loved it and somehow through all the craziness managed to get a degree. Little did I know it would be so much different when I signed up for post-grad and moved to rural Japan.

This time round I'm studying public policy, which is the study of government and the actions or inactions that affect the well-being of society. I'm a distance student with Massey University, the university I completed my undergraduate degree with. At the beginning of the semester the university posted me all the course materials for the four papers I'm taking. There was a lot of information, notes, articles and instructions. I'm glad I didn't have to pay for the postage. Distance study involves me reading all the relevant material, completing assignments and submitting them online through the university website.

So how did I end up here? My boyfriend signed up to the JET programme and left New Zealand last August. Four months later I ended up here as well. I had no idea how hard studying was going to be when I was the only one doing it, in a country where I didn't speak the language and didn't have access to a university library with all the textbooks

and study materials I could possibly need. It's incredibly hard to stay motivated when you have beautiful Saijo on your doorstep because there's so much to explore and so many new experiences to be had! Nine times out of 10 I will pass up studying to spend the afternoon barbequing at the river. Although it's hard to stay motivated, I'm already coming up to the end of Semester One. But that only means one thing: Exams.

I had four exams in June, I hope I did ok! It was quite the process to sort out exams abroad, but thanks to the help of Saijo's Coordinator for International Relations, John Wheeler, we got it sorted. Usually for distance students studying abroad the university arranges for exams to be held and supervised by sister universities. For me, the closest university I could sit exams at was in Osaka, but I felt having to navigate Osaka, find my way to the university, get to the right room and talk to the right people would just be too much extra stress. When my university realized I was quite far from Osaka, they let me know I could sit the exams in Saijo (thank god).

As much as I look forward to my one-year intensive qualification to be finished, it will also mean I will need to leave Japan and return home and that will be really sad because I love Saijo. I know that in the future when I am working somewhere in the public sector, helping to develop and analyse government policies, I will think of Saijo and my time in Japan and I won't remember any of the stress, just how much fun I had.

Laura is from Wellington, New Zealand and now resides in Nyugawa with her boyfriend Hogan Gill, a member of the JET programme. This is her first year living abroad, and she has now caught the 'travel bug' and wants to travel to as many places around the world as possible. Aside from being a university student, Laura also teaches English at a private after school programme.

### **Deadly Poisonous Octopus Found in Uwajima**

(from Ehime Shimbun July 6)



A deadly poisonous blue-ringed octopus "*Hyoumon-dako*", which is as dangerous as the *Fugu* or blowfish, was found in the Uwakai Sea off the shore of Yoshida-cho, Uwajima on June 4.

An official of the Ehime Prefectural Government warned, "Never touch the octopus should you see one as it can be lethal if you are bitten deeply."

According to the Prefectural Fisheries Department, a fisherman found the 6 cm octopus as he was lifting a basket up out of the sea while working on a pearl farm. The Fisheries Research Agency confirmed it was a blue-ringed octopus the next day.

Blue-ringed octopuses grow to about 10 cm in length and blue-rings appear when they feel stressed. They have tetrodotoxin in their salivary glands which is the same deadly

poison that the blowfish has. It can cause difficulty in breathing as well as paralysis and heart problems but the condition is treatable.

The blue-ringed octopus ordinarily inhabits rock and coral reefs in tropical and subtropical zones.

It is found once every several years in the Uwakai Sea.

This case is the first time since 2011.

A blue-ringed octopus, which is small but as deadly poisonous as blowfish, was found in Uwakai Sea off shore of Yoshida-cho Uwajima on June 4. It could be lethal if you are deeply bitten. "Never touch it even if you see it." A person in charge of Ehime Prefectural Government warned.

According to the Fisheries Department of the Prefecture, a fisherman found a 6 cm octopus while he was working pearl culture and lifted up a basket out of the sea. The Fisheries Research Agency confirmed it as the blue-ringed octopus on the next day.


A blue-ringed octopus is about 10 cm in length and blue-ring appears when it feels stress. It has tetrodotoxin in its salivary gland and as deadly poisonous as the blowfish. It could cause the breathing difficulty if bitten. The blue-ringed octopus ordinary inhabits in the rock reef and coral reef in the tropical and subtropical zone. It is found once in several years in Uwakai Sea. This is for the first time since 2011.

### **Information in English & Chinese on the Web**

**\*What's New?**

**\*How to sort garbage and trash**

**\*Information on living in Niihama**

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

**Clair:\*Multilingual Living Information**

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

## July Events

### ★July 13(Sun.)

### Japanese Speech Contest

13:30 – 16:00

Location : Sogo Fukushi Center (Fureai Plaza) 2F

The speakers are all non-Japanese who live in and around Niihama and learn Japanese.

### ★July 5, 12, 19, 26(Sat.)

### Doyou-Yo-ichi, markets on

18:00 – 21:00

### Saturday evenings

Location : Kikouji shopping arcade

Phone : 0897-41-5420

- Visitors will be able to enjoy foods available at various food stands and play games, such as goldfish scooping.

### ★August 3(Sun.)

### Niihama Summer Festival

Location : Domu Niihama, Showa Dori and Noborimichi shopping arcade

Phone : 0897- 37-6677/niihama@n-akindo.com

- The highlight will be seeing 10 taiko-dai getting together.

### ★July 26(Sat.)

### J. League Division 2 Soccer Game

19:00 –

Location : Ninjinia Stadium( next to Tobe Zoo)

Phone : 089-970-0700( Ehime FC) / 0897-65-1303(Niihama City)

- The Ehime FC will play against the Consadole Sapporo. Please contact the numbers above as to the fees.

### ★August 2 (Sat.) and 3 (Sun.)

13:00 -

### Shikoku Island League Baseball Game

Location : Niihama Municipal Stadium

Phone : 089-914-8102(Ehime Kenmin Kyudan)

- The Ehime Mandarin Pirates will play against the Fukuoka Softbank Hawks. Please contact the number above as to the fees.

## MOVIE

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

March 14 ~	FROZEN	2D • 3D Dubbed
June 13 ~	Noah	2D English
June 28 ~	TRANSCENDAENCE	2D English/2D Dubbed
July 4 ~	ALL YOU NEE IS KILL	2D English/3D Dubbed
July 5 ~	Maleficent	2D • 3D English
July 5 ~11	NY ANNIVERSARY LIVE! Simon & Garfunkel The Concert in Central Park	
July 12 ~18	NY ANNIVERSARY LIVE! Bon Jovi Inside Out	
July 19 ~	Planes : Fire & Rescue	2D • 3D English
July 25 ~	GODZILLA	2D English / 3D Dubbed

#### Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

### Fireworks festivals in and around Niihama

#### ★Niihama

Date : July 25(Fri.), 19:30 – 21:00

Location : Kokuryou-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-65-1261 / 33-5581

In case of rain, it will be postponed to July 28,  
29 or 30.

#### ★Saijo

Date : August 17(Sat.), 20:00 – 21:00

Location : Kamo-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-56-2605 (Saijo Tourist Association)

In case of rain, it will be postponed to August 18.

#### ★ Shikokuchuo – Doi Summer-Festival

Date : August 15(Fri.), 20:00 –

Location : Seki-gawa riverbed

Phone : 0896-28-6187(Shikokuchuo City Office)

In case of rain, it will be postponed to August 16.

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

email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

\*The editor for this month is K. Takahashi.

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## “焼く、焼き～”

A : 今晚、焼き肉を 食べに 行きませんか。

Konban yakiniku o tabe ni ikimasen ka.

(Would you like to go out for Yakiniku (grilled meat) tonight?)

B : ちょっと…。実は、給料日前で、あまり余裕がないんです。

Chotto... Jitsu wa kyūryōbi mae de, amari yoyū ga nain desu.

(Well... Actually it's before pay day and I don't have much leeway in my budget.)

A : じゃ、肉と野菜を 買って、うちで 作りませんか。

Ja, niku to yasai o katte uchi de tukurimasen ka.

(OK then, shall we buy some meat and vegetables and cook it at my house?)

B : いいですね。栄養 たっぷりの ヘルシー 焼き肉ですね。

Ii desu ne. Eiyō tappuri no herushi-yakiniku desu ne.

(Good! It's healthy Yakiniku full of nourishment.)

(Aさんの家で) (At A-san's house)

A : 焼きすぎ、焼きすぎ! 焼きすぎると、固く なりますよ。

Yakisugi, yakisugi! Yakisugiru to kataku narimasu yo.

(You're over cooking it! You're over cooking it! If you grill it too much, the meat will get tough.)

B : 私は しっかり 焼いた 方が 好きなんですけど…。

Watashi wa shikkari yaita hō ga suki nan desu ga...

(I prefer my meat very well done...)

A : 明日は 給料日ですね。Ashita wa kyūryōbi desu ne.

(Tomorrow is a pay day, right?)

B : そうですね。ちょっと 奮発して、ステーキを 食べに 行きませんか。

Sō desu ne. Chotto funpatsu shite sutēki o tabe ni ikimasen ka.

(That's right. Shall we splurge a little and go out for steak?)

A : ステーキと いえば、美味しい 店が 西条に ありますよ。

Sutēki to ieba, oishi mise ga Saijō ni aru sō desu yo.

(Steak? That reminds me - there's a delicious restaurant in Saijo.)

B : じゃ、そこにしましょう。Ja, soko ni shimashō. (OK. Let's go there.)

**A :** <sup>や</sup>焼き<sup>かげん</sup>加減も ちょうど いいし…。

Yakikagen mo chōdo iishi...(They grill it just right...)

スパイシーで、<sup>ひょうめん</sup>表面が こんがり <sup>や</sup>焼けて、<sup>なか</sup>中が ジューシー  
で・・・。

Supaishī de, hyōmen ga kongari yakete, naka ga jūshi  
de...

(Spicy, with the outside well-browned and the inside  
juicy...)

**B :** ああ、<sup>かんが</sup>考えただけで、<sup>しあわ</sup>幸せに なりますね～。

Aa, kangaeta dake de, shiawase ni narimasu nē.

(Ah, just thinking of it makes me happy!!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in  
Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp