

People In Town

"Chigasaki beach is my favorite place in Chigasaki."

Craig Gaunt

Craig Gaunt arrived in Chigasaki on February 28, this year coming from Adelaide, Australia. He was studying at university and working at a hotel but wanted a change of life style and decided to come to Japan, as he had studied Japanese culture at university. Previously, he has lived in New York, San Sebastian in Spain and of course, Australia, and so Japan is the fourth country in which he has lived. Craig says that he really enjoys trekking in the mountains and has so far been trekking in Indonesia, Canada, Alaska and Pakistan. It can be said, therefore, that he has a good knowledge of many different cultures.



Right now, he is teaching English while enjoying studying Japanese, going out with friends and taking photographs. He said that he likes photography and would like to take more pictures, write and travel to new places.

To Craig, Japan feels very safe and he likes that, but it is also a little funny at times. What makes him laugh is the way people will walk up or down on only one side of the stairs even when there is nobody on the other side. There is so much to do in Japan, and he has noticed a great mix of old and new cultures.

He has met some friends here in Chigasaki and has some Japanese friends he met in Australia though they live in different parts of Japan.

Craig said, "I love Chigasaki, have found it very relaxing, and will be staying as long as I can." His favorite place is Chigasaki beach, where he loves to go walking and see Mount Fuji on a clear day.

SATOYAMA PARK 里山公園

In the north of Chigasaki there is a recreational park called *SATOYAMA PREFECTURAL PARK* where children can enjoy playing on a long slide or a trampoline in a wide open space. It's on a hill and is surrounded by greenery, but located far from the central part of the city. So, not many people visit. You can get there in 20~30 minutes by bus bound for Bunkyo University leaving from bus stop No.1 at the north exit of the Chigasaki station. The bus station you need to get off at is Serizawa-Iriguchi (Entrance to Serizawa) and the fare is ¥260.

Now, *SATOYAMA* is a special place that is close to populated areas, but is filled with the natural fields, bush, forests, streams, etc. and is connected to the lives of the people. There are many living creatures including insects, fish and birds of many kinds as well as plants and trees that you won't see in city life. Japanese has a special meaning or feeling of nostalgia in the word, *SATO*. It is also used in the word of the birthplace; *FURUSATO*.

Actually, *SATOYAMA Park*, built by the prefecture, was designed for families with children so they can enjoy playing and or having lunch on the grass and so forth. There is also a path to go north on the left side of the park where you can enjoy walking in the surroundings of real nature.

On November 12, Rainbow Festival was held and there were thousands of people visiting to enjoy their flea market and a variety of performances of dance, music, etc. arranged by those who live in the northern part of Chigasaki.



GARBAGE COLLECTION CALENDAR as per The Last Issue.

Dear Readers,

Referring to the garbage collection calendar shown on Page 4 of the latest issue, this is to advise that the table showed the timing of April through June, but it was intended to show the basic collection system so that, for each district, the day of the week as well as intervals per item of garbage remain same through March, 2007. Also, all the other rules for disposal are effective in the same manner. Our apologies if the calendar in the latest edition caused you any problems.

IAC ACTIVITIES

INT'L INTERACTION

KOKUSAI KORYU

国際交流



In the last issue, we introduced our program to invite a young lady so she would talk about the experiences she had in twenty-five countries in the last ten years. Her speech was given on October 29 to a full hall. Her story with many photos shown on a large screen and the notes she took on her back-packing tour were so interesting and very much worth listening to. They described her thoughts on international relationships in different countries and cultures.

Her stories included things such as daring to go into schools and talk with local children and teachers whenever she found them on her way to her destination and that she managed to converse either simply in the local language she studied by herself before the trip or in her limited English. By doing such things, one time she happened to stay three nights in a house invited by a man she met on the street. Chatting with *The Dalai Lama* was one of the great experiences she had thanks to a kind offer made by a man she accidentally met.

Interestingly enough, "No problem was big", as to her something which looked very serious was considered as just as a matter of time by the people in Uzbekistan. She found toilets in local China were just a long line of ditches outside and there she noticed people communicated so closely while excreting, and so forth. Also, she added that knowledge and wisdom are powers that influence people, the peace in your heart makes the world a peaceful place, etc. Her speech impressed audience very much and you will find them in a description shown below.

IAC also opened a symposium on November 26, asking seven panelists to talk about their experience in overseas countries. The themes given were: (1) *Deai* or encountering, (2) Cultural interaction, and (3) How to communicate better with foreign people. We should be able to touch on these in some detail in the next issue.



The Audience's Impression

She is the ideal backpacker. She introduced and showed us what she always felt was necessary for traveling. For example, they are a flashlight, a portable lock, mosquito-repellent incense, Japanese toilet paper, and a long skirt. The last item was so impressive because she uses the long skirt not only when politeness is needed but also as a blind when she goes to the toilet in the open air and as well as a curtain at guest houses. These belongings were derived from her long traveling experiences.

What was surprising was that she keeps a diary and creates very detailed scrap books which are full of drawings from every time she has gone on a trip. They contain full journal entries, leaflets and tickets which she acquired while on her journeys. It was very interesting to take a look at them even though we were not the ones who experienced the journeys ourselves.

It was remarkable that she has some principles about traveling abroad. For example, when she is in foreign countries, she always tries to act like the local people do. For instance, she utilizes local transportations and restaurants and tries to interact with people in that area.

Also she attempts to smile all the time while traveling. She says that when you are smiling, good things will come to you and you can even get through the bad things.

IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperativeness, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as earth citizens, respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.