



2017 Tour to Sanda, Japan September 21st - October 3rd

Call for Applications

Wahroonga Rugby Club invites applications from all registered U11 and U12 players and parents for the 2017 Japan Tour, which will be held from September 21st to October 3rd.

The Sanda Tour embodies an extraordinary friendship between Sanda Rugby Club (Japan) and Wahroonga Rugby Club designed to foster rugby development and a cross cultural experience for young players.

Each year our clubs take turns visiting each other. The 10 day tour comprises a vigorous rugby program which is layered with sightseeing and cultural activities. Both players and adult tourists are billeted with local families and are therefore immersed in Japanese culture and customs for the duration of their visit.

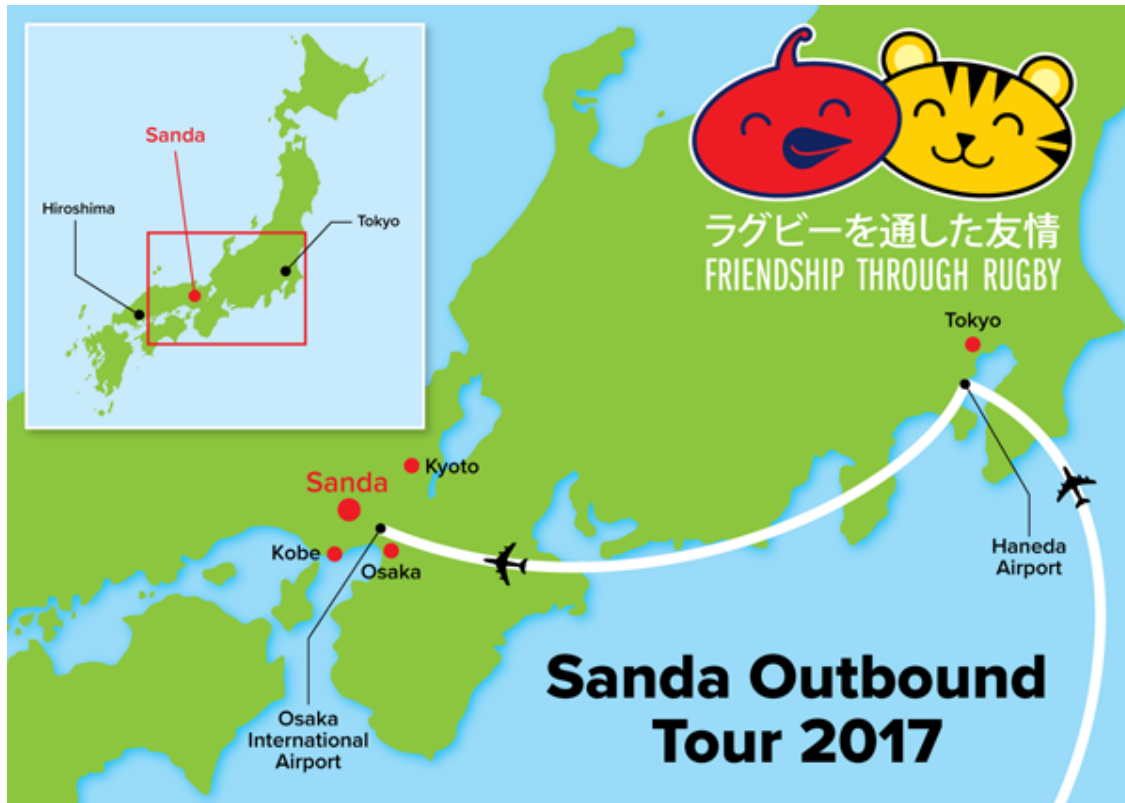
The special relationship between WRC and Sanda Rugby stemmed from the vision of passionate rugby proponent Dr. Shigeki Taba, who pursued a dream to establish a reciprocity with an Australian club so that rugby would become the platform for understanding, friendship, and the development of life skills.

Following a visit to Sanda's sister city, The Blue Mountains, Sanda Rugby established contact with David Campese, (who at that time was patron of Wahroonga Rugby Club). With much hard work by both clubs, Dr. Taba's vision became a reality with the first tour from Wahroonga to Sanda taking place in 1997.

There is a large photograph of Dr Taba in our clubhouse. Sadly he passed away in 2010, however his legacy lives on and this year marks the 20 year anniversary of our touring relationship; which represents a significant milestone for both clubs. Sanda is renowned for its warmth and hospitality and this year's tour is set to be very memorable for all those involved.

Sanda

Sanda City is located in the southeast of the Hyogo Prefecture of Japan, situated about 25 kilometres to the north of the city of Kobe and in a region approximately 35 kilometres northwest of Osaka.



Tour Dates and Flight Information

The tour will be held from Thursday, September 21st - Tuesday, October 3rd 2017.

Air Travel has already been arranged and the tour will fly with a combination of Qantas and Japan Airlines.

Outbound Travel Arrangements		
Depart Sydney	Thursday 21 September at 9:00pm	QF0025
Arrive Haneda	Friday 22 September at 5:30am	
Depart Haneda	Friday 22 September at 7:30am	JL0103
Arrive Osaka Itami	Friday 22 September at 8:35am	
The tour will then travel by coach transfer to Sanda (approx 30 minutes).		

Return Travel Arrangements		
Depart Osaka Itami	Monday 02 October at 5:20pm	JL0128
Arrive Haneda	Monday 02 October at 6:30pm	
Depart Haneda	Monday 02 October at 10:00pm	QF0026
Arrive Sydney	Tuesday 03 October at 9:30am	

Itinerary

The itinerary has not yet been finalised and will be provided upon confirmation of tour participation. In previous years the sightseeing tour included Hiroshima Peace Museum, Universal Studios, travel on the bullet train and a number of impressive historical temples.

This year the 20 year anniversary will see the tour program packed with many memorable and special celebrations.

Tour Policy and Forms

The Japan Tour Policy, together with the player and adult application forms are available on the WRC website. Please read the tour policy carefully prior to making your application.

Tour Numbers

Tour numbers are limited by the number of host families in Japan. In past years we have been able to take every player who applied. We hope to be able to take 2 x 16 player squads (U11 and U12) again this year. Rugby tourists are usually accompanied by a parent group of between 8-10 adults.

Please be advised that all adult applicants must nominate for one or more tour roles (which also include pre-tour responsibilities) These roles, together with the selection process for adult tourists, are outlined in the tour policy.

Player Selection

To apply, players need to complete the Japan Tour player Application form. Applications are open to all U11 and U12 players, irrespective of grading or capability. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, player tenure with the WRC may be taken into account. In this case applications will be considered and determined by the tour selection committee formed to determine adult selection. (see below)

It is a privilege to be selected to tour with the Wahroonga Rugby Club to Sanda, and players are chosen on merit. The selection committee looks for players who are mature, dedicated to the team, considerate of others, and have a history of service to the club.

Adult Selection

To apply, adults need to complete the Japan Tour Adult Application form. Each adult must apply for one or more tour roles. These are outlined in detail within the policy.

Adult selections will be determined by a Tour Selection Committee comprising the WRC President, and 2 other people nominated by the committee; one of whom is a current committee member. Preferably at least 1 person on this committee will have toured previously to Sanda.

The Tour Selection Committee will consider each application against a range of criteria, which are outlined in section 7 of the Japan Tour Policy.

Tour Cost

Final costs are to be confirmed however it's likely the financial commitment to the tour will amount to approximately \$2,600. (slightly less for players who are 11 years old at the date of departure, as their airfare is cheaper.) This will be an all inclusive cost, including airfares and transport, land costs (tours and sightseeing etc) most meals, spending money and tour uniform. A breakdown of these is provided in the tour policy document.

Every effort is made to minimise the tour cost, and in previous years players have sought to generate financial support through fundraising activities which are coordinated by the club. With the exception of spending money, tour costs can be offset by any money generated through

coordinated fundraising efforts. Any funds raised will be shared evenly amongst the players (not the touring adults). A tourist who does not participate in fundraising activities will not benefit from the fundraising offset.

The cost offset can be significant but is obviously dependent on the tourists' efforts. Fundraising represents an integral part of the tour's value proposition in that it encourages the children to truly understand the value of the opportunity made available to them.

Closing Date

Applications MUST be received by 5:00pm, Friday March 24.

Please email applications to japantour@wahroongarugby.com.au or contact Elana Massey on 0408115404 should you require any further information.

