



# Ebb Tide 2017 Japan Tour Newsletter

March, 2016

Number 2

## STORIES FROM JAPAN

There are innumerable stories of Japan from previous Ebb Tide tours.

**Bullet train, Ian Cameron:** "This is one place where you really don't want to be tardy: the train left at 1:13, and they mean to the second. The doors open five minutes before the train starts, and if you are not in your seat with one minute to go the doors close and you are on the next train. Well, you are on the next train if you go to the ticket office and make a new reservation, as the seats are reserved, unless you want to take a chance on getting an unreserved seat, and if you're the sort of person who is habitually late you won't have a chance. The trains average over 200 km per hour, including stops, and they do that by (a) stopping only in major cities and (b) stopping only for three minutes. People have one and a half minutes to get off, and one and a half to get on."

**Banquets, Ray Calton:** "and at Tenri we had a banquet Japanese style, sitting on the floor, and we'd just finished eating when they opened the

curtains to the stage and there was a high school band and they played western dance music and we all danced for hours. The Japanese thought we were great dancers."

**Games, Sonny Vickery:** "In Japan we played eleven games in ten days, meaning that there was one day we played two games. I played every game. The second game on the day we played twice was against the Kensai doctors and they were over 35's. That was a tough game. And you had to drink a lot. You arrived in a city and they'd greet you and you'd have something to drink and then you'd play the game and then there'd be a reception and more drinking and then you'd get on the bus and travel to the next city and then 'kampei' and here we go again. And we'd play the game and then there'd be the reception and you drink again and next morning onto the bus again and then you're in the next city and "Oh, you've got to have a drink." After awhile we got pretty smart. One beer and let's play. We'll drink later."

### "From the Tour Chair"

In recent years the club has arranged a major tour every 3 years. 1992 Japan; 1997 Vancouver (Golden Oldies); 1999-Wales (World Cup); 2003-Chile; 2006-Japan; 2009-New Zealand; 2012-France; then .....

The club has not had a major tour since 2012 with two recent tour plans for 2015 cancelled due to poor numbers.

For the new members to the club since 2012, you have joined one of the oldest Over-40 clubs in the Pacific Northwest Over40 Rugby Union (PNORU). The Ebb Tide was formed in October 1972 and a 40-year anniversary celebration was held on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you don't already have a copy of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book, you should get one and read up about your club. You will see in the club's history that the very first game the Ebb Tide played was against the Wak Wak club of Osaka on October 5, 1972.

As has been said many times, the club has a long tradition of games with Japanese teams. Some of our newer, younger members enjoyed the game against the Gentlemen from Osaka on May 7, 2015 and a taste of the hosting. Since inception, the Ebb Tide has played more than 25 games against various Japanese Clubs and travelled to Japan 6 times, 5 of these in the first 20 years to 1992. Since 1992 and by May 2017 the club will have toured Japan only once in 25 years (2006). We are losing our Japanese connections and traditions. As the years progress and we all age, we are also losing our Japanese contacts made in the past and need our younger members to take over the mantle of these relationships. It is up to the younger members to decide on the direction they wish to take their club and hopefully maintain the Japanese connections and traditions.

The 40-year olds on the 2006 tour are now mostly late 50's or already in their 60's and are unlikely to make another Japanese tour after 2017. The 60-year olds from that tour have mostly retired from active rugby and we have also lost a few to the R.I.P. Tide. This 2017 tour will be part of the "passing of the torch" to our newer, younger members for the continued well being of the club.

The 2006 tour consisted of 38 players and 5 partners. This gave us 2 full teams each of 40- and 50-year olds with 6 players in their 60's. Of the 38, there were 27 from the Ebb Tide and 11 from other BC clubs and beyond (Edmonton). Ideally, we would like this tour to have similar numbers, so we need hopefully, 30 Ebb Tider's to commit to this tour before we open it up to PNORU. There has already been interest in this tour shown from other PNORU players. As this will be an Ebb Tide tour, there needs to be mostly players from our club and not too much of a barbarian group.

Ask anyone who has been on tour to Japan and you will hear that it is like no other for the camaraderie, hosting and gift exchange traditions as well as being a very unique country to visit. At the time of compiling this newsletter there were 16 players committed, so we need at least 10-14 more to make this a viable Ebb Tide tour.

We have contacted all 5 Japanese clubs we are planning on playing and have received enthusiastic, positive responses from their Presidents. Preparations are already underway in Japan to receive and host us. Will those of you thinking of joining this "bucket list" tour please contact any executive member and get your payments in to secure your spot. Looking forward to a great time in Japan next year, with all of you.

Dave "Knoxie"

2017 Japan Tour Chair



**FIRST DETAILS**

- o Target cost: \$4,000
- o Coach = maximum 50 persons;
- o Target numbers: 40 players + 10 partners;
- o Reserve participation with \$100 refundable deposit commencing immediately – first pay, first reserved to Jim Capron;
- o Increase deposit to \$500 (+\$400) by May 30, 2016 – now nonrefundable;
- o Final payment due (when Airfares have to be paid) – likely Jan 2017;
- o Order of participation:
  - First Ebb Tide members (Goal 29) (by May 2016);
  - Then past players (by June 2016);
  - Then PNORU.(by June 2016)
  - We will prepare a waiting list for non-Ebb Tide members for anyone interested.

**Who to blame**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Chair                   | Dave Knox      |
| Japan Club Requests     | Glen           |
| Tour Manager            | TBD            |
| Japan Contact           | Knoxie         |
| Travel                  |                |
| a. Canada               | Knoxie         |
| b. Japan                | Miki           |
| Finance                 | Jim Capron     |
| Fundraising             | Lori           |
| Tour Equipment          | Dave Valentine |
| Club Gifts              | Glen           |
| a. Main                 | Ian            |
| b. Captain              | Harold         |
| Player Gifts            | Shane          |
| Newsletter              | Ian Cameron    |
| Tour Program            | Rob Phillips   |
| Player "business" Cards | Vahid Bossi    |



2006 Kimono Party  
Good looking bunch!

**Who's going?**

Sign ups at the time of printing:

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Edgington, John | 1. Norma Muldrew (Shane)    |
| 2. Butler, Harold  | 2. Heather Butler (David)   |
| 3. Edgington, Mark | 3. Annemarie Bonshor (Eric) |
| 4. Knox, Dave      | 4. Rhonda Shern (Daren)     |
| 5. Kotzian, Rick   | 5. Lisa Hanson (Mark)       |
| 6. Kovacs, Darren  | 6. Lori Butler (Honeydo)    |
| 7. McMordie, Dave  | 7. Sue Rudiger (Rick)       |
| 8. Muldrew, Shane  |                             |
| 9. Okrainetz, Glen |                             |
| 10. Sarosiak, Mike |                             |
| 11. Walshaw, Tim   |                             |
| 12. White, Eric    |                             |
| 13. Eby, Paul      |                             |
| 14. Dancy, Paul    |                             |
| 15. Cameron, Ian   |                             |
| 16. Mike Joss      |                             |

**AIRTRAVEL**

Current Airfare Estimate, based on May 2016.

We cannot book for May 2017 until ~June 2016.

| Flight | From                                       | To   | Date       | Depart | Arrive       |
|--------|--|--|------------|--------|--------------|
| AC003  | Vancouver, Vancouver Intl (YVR) Terminal M | Tokyo, Narita (NRT) Terminal 1             | Sun 15-May | 13:40  | 15:25 +1 day |
| AC004  | Tokyo, Narita (NRT) Terminal 1             | Vancouver, Vancouver Intl (YVR) Terminal M | Sun 29-May | 16:25  | 09:00        |

|| B: Breakfast L: Lunch M: Meal (Non Specific)

Review final quote details

| Fare Summary   Fare Details           |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total for 1 adult                     |                  |
| <b>Air Transportation Charges</b>     |                  |
| Base Fare                             | 1568.00          |
| Taxes, Fees and Charges               | 79.30            |
| <b>Grand Total - Canadian dollars</b> | <b>\$1647.30</b> |

Land Arrangements

Every tour member has to pay the cost of the Japanese in-country, land arrangements, but flights are flexible. For those members wishing to, it is possible to book (and pay) for your flight portion of this tour with Airmiles or "points". You will just have to arrange and synchronize with the main tour group's flight booking.



2006 94-year old Tenri Old Bear

*Kimono shops*

One of the more interesting things about Japan is the huge number of kimono shops. New kimonos sell for about \$2,500 CDN, but you can find them second hand for about \$130. Or you can buy a yukata, a less formal gown consisting of only one layer that may be either printed silk or cotton, and is traditionally worn in the summer. Or you might buy a haori, which is a jacket, usually of dyed or painted silk, which looks a bit like a kimono because of its elongated sleeves. These have waned considerably in popularity and can be found in large numbers in second hand stores. They can easily be combined with normal items of wear such as jeans or skirts. They can also be found quite cheaply, from about \$10 in second hand stores.