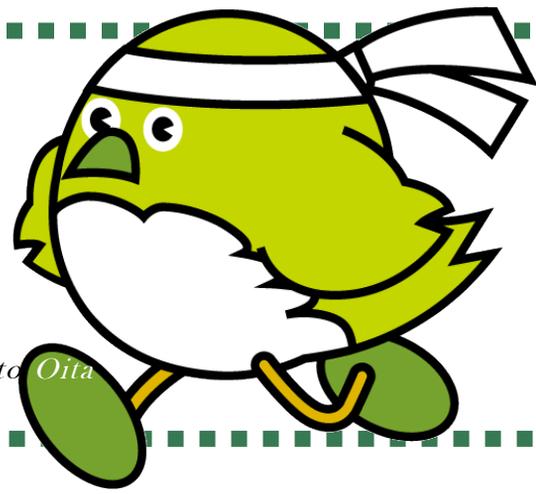


What's up,

OITA! 2021 February No. 57

Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita
thriving all across the globe.



International Students

Promoting the Highlights of Studying in Oita

Promoting Oita to the world through videos! #I Choose OITA



The Oita Prefecture has called for video entries created by international students that illustrate the highlight of local campus life and studying abroad. The videos can be viewed via the link below.

We have received over 200 entries from individual and group entrants who introduced their experiences of living abroad through the lens of their own cameras. Please take the time to view their work!



Don't forget to share the news with your friends and kōhai!



<https://sns.ichooseoita.com/>



Repairing the Hachiman Nada Shrine

A big thank you to the overwhelming support!

The sun rising from the torii



The Hachiman Nada Shrine is situated at eastern Kitsuki, where long strands of beaches stretch along the coastal area. The shrine shares ties with Usa Jingu, and holds a history of approximately 1300 years. Built on an island that is 300m offshore and bathed in daily morning sunlight, the shrine's torii has been a symbolic landmark of worship since ancient times.

■ Crowdfunding for reconstruction

(Please note that the event has ended)

When Typhoon Haishen hit in September 2020, the shrine's symbolic torii and stone fence were washed away in the storm and high waves. The torii, which was torn off from the base, was miraculously washed up to a nearby beach.

While reconstruction through the efforts of village residents alone was initially deemed difficult due to the aging and decreasing population, a crowdfund was launched by newer residents to the area. Upon the 29th day of its launch, the online event reached its target of 2 million JPY. Owing to 287 funders, including individuals based overseas, the event ultimately gathered more funds than initially targeted.



Torii washed up onto the beach



High wave in the typhoon



Poster calling for support

■ Reconstructing the torii with support

A commemoration event was held on Jan 24 upon the completion of the reconstruction and repair project. We are deeply grateful towards the overwhelming approval and support that we have received. In other news, the preservation of pine forests close by the shrine is progressing smoothly, and a COVID-19 safe walker's promenade has also been revived.

The area now buzzes with new energy – visitors may choose to visit beach houses converted into vocational lodges that provide a variety of experiences, such as dining in burger joints and standup paddleboarding.

We greatly look forward to having you with us once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control.



Reconstruction in process

<https://youtu.be/xDpodMFJqqM>

(Promotional video featuring area around Hachiman Nada Shrine)

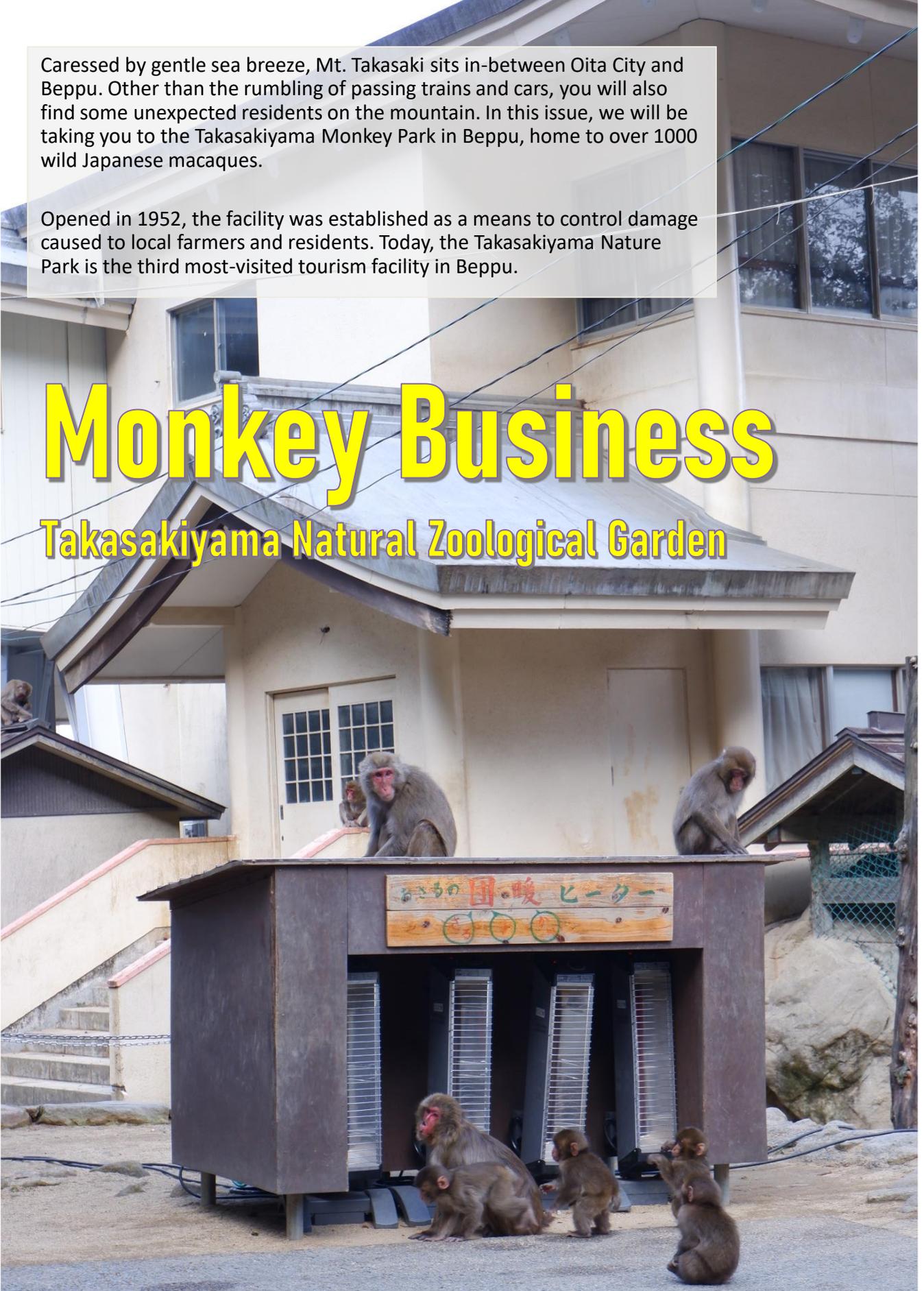


Caressed by gentle sea breeze, Mt. Takasaki sits in-between Oita City and Beppu. Other than the rumbling of passing trains and cars, you will also find some unexpected residents on the mountain. In this issue, we will be taking you to the Takasakiyama Monkey Park in Beppu, home to over 1000 wild Japanese macaques.

Opened in 1952, the facility was established as a means to control damage caused to local farmers and residents. Today, the Takasakiyama Nature Park is the third most-visited tourism facility in Beppu.

Monkey Business

Takasakiyama Natural Zoological Garden





In 2015, the park named a female baby monkey 'Charlotte' after Britain's newborn princess. Although the announcement was a result of a traditional public vote, it caused a commotion among concerned members of the Japanese public who found naming a monkey after a British royal to be disrespectful. While an apology was offered, the facility stuck with the decision. Charlotte remains well loved by the public to this day, and has been voted as one of the 'Most Popular Monkeys' five years in a row as of 2020.

The facility is a great place to see the monkeys in their natural habitat, not to mention learning about some of Oita's interesting but lesser known history.

Upon entering the park, visitors are given the choice of two trekking courses, with one called the Tortoise Course and the other called the Hare Course. The former, as the name suggests, is catered to those who like a little exercise, while the latter offers a gentler climb. Those who wish to skip the climb completely may instead choose to take a return trip on the in-facility monorail for the price of 100 yen. All options lead to the area where the monkeys gather, and offer different scenic views of Beppu Bay throughout the seasons.

The keepers feed the monkeys every 30 minutes with a special blend of wheat, in addition to sweet potatoes mixed with their normal meal twice a day. The latter meal in particular causes quite a stir as the monkeys run, screech, and fight each other in an attempt to swipe most of the tasty treat, a sight that has become a favourite among visitors. Staff members also give talks that introduce the facility's history, the monkeys' living habits and how the monkeys are divided into social groups.



Facility Information

Takasakiyama Natural Zoological Park

3098-1 Kanzaki, Oita, 870-0802

Entrance fees:

Adults and high school students: 510 yen

Junior high school and elementary school students: 250 yen

Kindergarten children: free

Monorail round ticket: 100 yen

Opening Hours: 8:30 to 17:00 (All year), last admission at 16:30