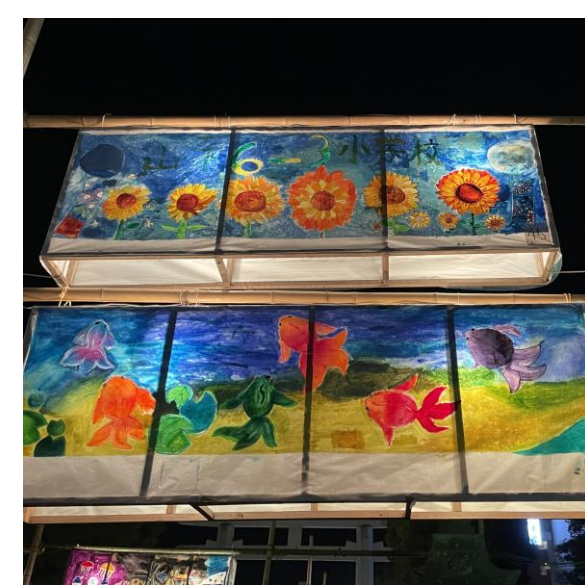


Lighting up Kagoshima: Learning from Everlasting Kings Park Festival to Enhance Rokugatsudo's Local Identity and Community

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Background



What is Terukuni shrine Rokugatsudo?

It is the festival in **Kagoshima**.
It takes place at Terukuni shrine and is famous for its about 800 lantern exhibition.
The local identity of the festival : Lanterns



What is Everlasting Kings Park Festival?

It is the festival in **Perth**, Australia.
It takes place at the city park, called Kings Park, and is famous for its unique wildflowers.
The local identity of the festival : Wildflowers

The significance of Festivals

- The presence of festivals encourages people to consider or take U or J-turns¹
 - Intergenerational exchange in organizing festivals fosters community attachment²
- Enhancing Rokugatsudo's local identity and community is important for Kagoshima**

↓ But

Current issues that I found through the research of Rokugatsudo



Fewer children may make it difficult to collect enough drawings



Many people are gathering around the food stalls, not the lanterns

Purpose This research aims to find the solution to the current issues of Rokugatsudo and to enhance Rokugatsudo's local identity and community

● Terukuni Shrine Rokugatsudo (Kagoshima)

Community



Many people support this festival

Lantern Drawings

- Children in Kagoshima

Installation of Lantern

- Terukuni shrine staff
- Keishin Women's Association
- Companies in Kagoshima
- Silver Human Resources Center, etc.



Fewer children may make it difficult to collect enough drawings



Supporters are from specific groups or age ranges

Local Identity



Writing wishes on tanzaku

1. Offer a 100-yen coin
2. Choose the paper color
3. Write your wishes
4. Hang Tanzaku on bamboo



Many people were lining up to participate in this activity



Many people are gathering around the food stalls, not the lanterns



No activities related to lanterns

● Everlasting Kings Park Festival (Perth)

Community



Volunteer Groups

Kings Park Volunteer Guide

- This is one of the volunteer groups of Kings Park
- They usually stay at the information center and guide visitors around the Kings Park
- They need to **receive training** every 2 to 3 years and share their knowledge about wildflowers as volunteer guides
- **Most events of the festival are organized by volunteer groups of Kings Park**



Age and background do not matter³

Local Identity



Volunteer Guide Walk

- People can learn about wildflowers (Organized by Kings Park Volunteer Guide)



Nature Craft Activity

- People can enjoy wildflower coloring
Not only children, but also adults participated (Organized by Kings Park Education Volunteers)

What I learned



This plant, called Kangaroo paw, opens its flowers one by one to extend the flowering period.

Participate as Supporters

Participate as Visitors

Suggestion

Form a Rokugatsudo Volunteer group

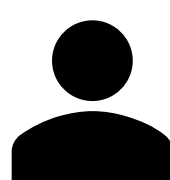
- This volunteer group welcomes people regardless of age or background
- Members must receive training to enhance their competency (learning the history of Rokugatsudo, how to make lanterns, etc.)
- The members support the operation and actively offer ideas to improve Rokugatsudo and solve its problems



This volunteer group enables various people to take part in running Rokugatsudo and helps improve it

Small Lantern-Drawing Activities

- At Central Park
- 1. Volunteers hand out sheets of paper for the small lanterns
- 2. Visitors draw any picture they like
- 3. Volunteers turn the drawings into lanterns



Both children and parents feel happy when they see their drawings displayed



This activity attracts visitors to the lanterns and helps secure enough drawings

Conclusion Both participation as supporters and participation as visitors are important

1. The volunteer group that allows a diverse range of people to take part in the operation can increase the number of supporters and encourage interaction. This helps strengthen the local community.
2. The lantern-drawing activity can both secure enough lanterns and encourage people to get interested in the local identity. This helps enhance the local identity.



References

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- 3 Kings Park Volunteer Guides Western Australia 「About us」 <https://www.kingsparkguides.com.au/about-us/>