

## Stone Buddha Statues in Matori

There is one hundred stonework in total (including the pieces) remaining on this site, among which 88 are *Hyakuban-kannon*. Kannon and the Jizo were the most loved Buddha image among the public, and it is considered that they were built in the late Edo period. Residents along the road and passersby raised the money to build the stonework. They then prayed for the safety of passersby, everyday life, healing of illness, and a good harvest in autumn. Those stone Buddha statues are, therefore, precious records to know the history of the Matori district, indicating the state of the local belief of those days.

Karuizawa Town Board of Education

The Protection of Cultural Properties Review Committee of Karuizawa Town