

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to all our friends in the work of Sister Cities. Wherever you may be in this great country of ours I trust you have enjoyed a safe and peaceful Easter Season with friends and family. From whatever walk of life you may be we all have the same ideals and goals and that is the hope that by our own efforts, be they small or large, World Peace may be a step closer.

I am continually amazed by the wonderful ways in which many pursue this and I am also left to wonder why there are so many who would wish to place a negative spin on our work and programs. In many instances I believe it is simple ignorance with absolutely little or no understanding of the work and commitment that is continually undertaken by those involved. So perhaps one aspect we need address is the way in which we communicate with our stakeholders with information and perhaps an invitation to play a part. Many times I have heard people express surprise at happenings within their own community. Knowledge is power and informed knowledge is certainly one of the hallmarks that we should always strive for.

I wonder how many families have been involved in home hosting over the years that our organization has been operating? It is one of the wonderful aspects of international relationships and has rewards that have no price. Recently my wife and I had the pleasure of a visit from a young lady whom we hosted twenty years ago when she was a young fourteen year old student. Now this young student has grown into a delightful young woman and we were delighted to welcome not only her but also her father. What a wonderful experience brought about only through involvement in a Sister Cities exchange. Should you not have been part of this I can highly recommend it.

Earlier this year I was saddened to learn of the passing of Cllr. Leo Kelly of Blacktown. Leo was a great stalwart of Sister Cities and over the past many years I can recall his commitment and passion and he will be sadly missed amongst our ranks. We send our deepest sympathy to Janet. With the passing of Leo it made me reminisce on all the wonderful people who have passed through our ranks over the years and the tremendous contributions so many have made. In so many different ways many have made SCA what it is today and that is an organization I am proud to be a small part of.

In closing I would like to wish a warm welcome to our newest member, City of Townsville and Mayor Jenny Hill. I look forward to your involvement. Bill

NEW LOOK FOR SCA NATIONAL AWARDS – 2017

UPDATE * * * * UPDATE



The SCA National Awards Handbook has been emailed to all members following the last Newsletter.

Cities who have already advised us of their intent to enter have been sent the electronic templates for their chosen category or categories. It is just so easy!

Has your city organised a successful event between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017

Closing date for Notice of Intention to Enter - 31 April 2017

If you would like to enter and have not received the SCA National Awards Handbook as yet, please email me: jan.teasdale@sistercitiesaustralia.com

Chair, SCA National Awards Program – Jan Teasdale

NEW MEET YOUR COMMITTEE – Jan Teasdale Jan's Story

Doors open, doors close - the trick is to realise that this mechanism controls our journey through life.

Born in Melbourne, and living in Ashburton, my first job was a punch card operator, the first stage of computers. Way back in the 1960's little did we know then the effect computers would have on our lives.

My Dad was a track and field official in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. A dedicated family man, his keen interest was athletics, initially as a marathon runner, then a tireless worker in the sport he loved.



Marriage! Future husband and strong willed Ted came into my life. We settled in the Perth suburb of Belmont and our family grew with daughters Kim, Helen, son Darren and 5 grandchildren. Sadly we lost Kim to breast cancer in 2001.

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We joined the local squash club, played pennant squash.

My friend Chris and I coached the Junior Squash Club.

Ted expressed to many people that some aspects of our suburb could be better, so the squash court owner said –

“if you feel that strongly about progress, why don't you become a councillor?”. Cr Ted Teasdale emerged.

So from 1979 for some 22 years, the City of Belmont and local government was a major part of our lives.

The beneficial seed with sister cities was sown.

Job wise, market research, in-store demonstrating, and finally the hobby of sewing turned into a job – teaching stretch sewing, creating incredible outfits, selling 'Janome Sewing machines'. I specialize in Machine Embroidery and just love to create. Fashion, past and present has seen my joy of sewing expand into the miniature world of historical dolls and dolls houses.

Local government opened up many doors. A sister city relationship between Belmont and the Ward of Adachi in Tokyo Japan was established in 1984. So we saved hard, learnt Japanese and went to Adachi for the signing ceremony. It was not long

before I was on the sister city committee, as President, Vice President and 16 years running the secretariat, working with dedicated volunteers from both cities.

Not really knowing the word "NO" when I was asked by former Vice President Joan Thompson to nominate in 2000 for ASCA Vice President – consequently YES was the answer. As coordinator of the National Awards program it has been my pleasure to enable cities to promote their sister city activities by entering an award. Creativity is contagious and the varied activities are inspirational. Congratulations to all.



I am very proud to have received the following awards

Honorary Citizen of the Special Ward of Adachi. Japan

2005 Belmont Enterprise Centre Volunteer of the year

2016 City of Belmont Australian of the Year

Life memberships with Belmont Squash Club,

Belmont Sister City Association and Sister Cities Australia

Currently Vice President of SCA and also the Belmont Sister City Association. The opportunity to meet people from many walks of life, and the involvement of working to achieve positive

Doors will open and close, so I leave you with these words of wisdom.

Each day is a new opportunity, yesterday is done and gone, today is the first day of my future.

outcomes have been highlights in my life. I also enjoy other groups like Rostrum, Rotary, Probus and keeping fit.

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM DEVONPORT Devonport, Tasmania Hosts 20th Anniversary Sister City Delegation from Minamata, Japan.

Devonport City Council in Tasmania hosted a delegation from its sister city, Minamata in Japan, between 18-21 March 2017. During the visit to mark the 20th anniversary of the relationship between the two cities, Minamata Mayor Hiroshi Nishida and Devonport Mayor Steve Martin signed an agreement to renew the sister-city friendship. The mayors also unveiled a plaque alongside twenty cherry blossoms to mark the anniversary.



The visiting group included students, a teacher, Council staff and community members from Minamata, who enjoyed an indigenous welcome ceremony, tour of the LIVING CITY construction site and council offices, a community picnic luncheon and visits to local attractions including the Tasmanian Arboretum, Petuna Seafood and a special sailing on the city's historic fishing ketch, the Julie Burgess.



The visiting teacher and students spent a day at St Brendan Shaw College and other delegates toured Nixon Street Primary School in Devonport where they participated in a number of activities with local

students. Both Minamata and Devonport students took the opportunity to learn a little more of each other's language.

Of the visit Mayor Hiroshi Nishida said "Twenty years ago Devonport and Minamata signed the sister city agreement. Since then there has been all sorts of exchange with students going back and forth".

"I am looking forward to 30, 40, 50 years, so future generations can also enjoy the exchange between the two cities".

The City of Minamata was struck by industrial pollution sixty years ago which resulted in a type of poisoning known as Minamata disease. In 1992 the City decided they were going to become an environmental model city which they were able to achieve.



"Since then Minamata has really made an effort to become much more environmentally friendly and has cleaned everything up" said Mayor Nishida.

Devonport Mayor Steve Martin said, "There is great synergy between the two cities, one because of disasters and ours is because we are looking at economic development for our city. There are some great possibilities and benefits of further future collaborations between Devonport and Minamata City".

For further information please contact:

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SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM TAMWORTH Gore-Tamworth Celebrate 25 Years



The 2017 Tamworth Country Music Festival was the backdrop to a historic occasion for Tamworth and its longest city sister relationship with Gore, New Zealand. This year marks 25 years since the first Sister City Protocol was signed back in 1992. Cr Tracy Hicks, Mayor of Gore, and Cr Col Murray were on hand to sign a new agreement at a Civic Reception held in Tamworth, supporting and reaffirming the importance of the relationship to each city.

Gore is Tamworth's most active sister city relationship with reciprocal visits being under each year by the Councils and between the Gore Ambassador and the Tamworth Country Music Queen. This is also the second year of the ANZAC Day student exchange program where each Council

selects a young person to visit the other city for ANZAC and experience how this important day is celebrated across the ditch.

The latest protocol recognises the importance of visiting each region and sharing knowledge and friendship but also recognizes that over 25 years there have been many gifts given by each Council and therefore Civic Gifts will no longer be exchanged during these visits.

Mayor Col Murray and Mayor Tracy Hicks planting a tree in the Gore Garden in Tamworth's Botanic Garden with the Queen and Princess of Country Music and the Gore Ambassador.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact: Karen Litchfield (02) 6767 5514

LOOKING FOR, OR TO BECOME, A SISTER CITY?

Check out the SCA website where there is a list of cities actively looking for affiliations, [click here](#). There are cities in China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya and the USA waiting – and more to come.

Are you seeking an Australian sister city? Fill out the details on the request form and return to SCA as per the contact information at the end of the document, [click here](#).



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

April 2017

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SCA

Your SCA Committee

President – Bill Wilson

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Executive Member – Sim Hayward

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Executive Member – Christina Despoteris

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Full contact details for any of the above are available on the SCA website on the Administration page, accessed through the About Us link.

SCA has a website – www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

Visit the association's website for: information about us; what activities we are involved with; any events that are of interest; all the details on the annual awards; access to our publications and images; and how to contact us.

If you notice any changes that need to be made to the website, or if you have any suggestions for improving the site please let us know. Send an email to the [Website Editor](#) (click on this link) with your comments and/or your suggestions.

SCA on Social Media

In essence the goal of every Sister City program is to understand and appreciate other cultures and ways of life. Join us on **Facebook** ([link here](#)) and embark on this journey together.

SCA invites you to contribute stories, photos, successes and even failures to our Facebook page so that we can all learn from one another and take our relationships to a higher level.

SCA Newsletter Options and Contributions

[Sign Up for the Newsletter](#)

[Submit a story](#) (plus up to 4 images)

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Have your contact details changed? Click here to [email the editor](#) if they are incorrect.

Please forward this newsletter on to interested colleagues and friends, thank you.