

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Over the years I have been involved with the Sister Cities movement I have lost count of how many times I have been told by someone, "Sister Cities, never heard of it". That really resonates with me and I always wonder why the wonderful projects and work undertaken by so many goes largely unnoticed. Perhaps we are at fault because what we do is all good and as we all know, good news doesn't sell papers. Is that not one of the saddest statements ever made? We in the inner sanctum are

aware of the many great projects run by some wonderful people, who are mostly volunteers. The good that is derived from these projects will never be able to be quantified but amounts to thousands of hours of work and an influence on tens of thousands of individuals. Speak with anyone who has had the good fortune to either have hosted or been hosted as part of an exchange and I am certain you will open up a terrific conversation on the benefits of these programs. May they continue for a long time in the future.

Are you aware that July 5th is National Sister Cities Day? Your answer is possibly in the negative so this year SCA is looking to reinstate its importance. Keep watch for some exciting news coming up for an event on this date in Victoria so please mark your diary now.

Please be aware that you are now able to post your photos and stories on our Facebook page, but please make sure they are relevant to Sister Cities. Why not ask your friends to like the page as well so that we may reach a far wider audience.

Our partner across the ditch, Sister Cities New Zealand are holding their 2018 Conference 24th-26th May in Hutt City. Should you wish to attend please contact us for more information. I can assure you that President Hiromi Morris and Mayor Ray Wallace will make you more than welcome.

Yours in Sister Cities

Bill - President

## 2018 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

**Sister Cities are a vibrant aspect of communities worldwide.**

**We would love to hear about your successful projects.**

**ENTER THE 2018 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS NOW!**

SCA Members - you only have until April 27th to get your 'Notice of Intention to Enter' sent to Jan Teasdale, as per the instructions in the Handbook. A big thank you to those that have already expressed their intention to enter but SCA, and especially the judges, would love to see a lot more

coming in. This is the perfect opportunity for you to showcase the wonderful activities and achievements from your sister city programs, and give that deserved recognition to those hard working committee members and volunteers who tirelessly support those relationships.

### **YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCA NATIONAL AWARDS - 2018**

Comprehensive notes streamlining the process, Important Dates, Information and Category Criteria are detailed in the 2018 SCA Handbook, which was emailed to all member cities on March 28. Entering

an award will be accomplished by completing an electronic MS Word template for each of the 5 award categories (appropriate templates will be sent to you once you have nominated the categories that

you wish to enter). The templates have full instructions on their use included.

Award categories are:

- Community Involvement
- Youth Project
- Tourism and Trade
- New Affiliation
- Overall Program



Important dates are:

- Eligibility Period: 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
- Notice of Intention to Enter (page 5 of the Handbook): Friday 27 April 2018
- Date submissions must reach judges: Friday 3 August 2018
- 2018 SCA National conference: Venue and date to be confirmed.

Jan Teasdale

Coordinator SCA National Awards

## EXTRA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM SCA The Brand New SCA Facebook Group.

The new Facebook Group is proving to be popular with 60 members (as at 16/4/18) but there is always room for more to join our community.

Keep up to date with your own copy of the SCA bi-monthly newsletter, which is put up on the Group page a few days after being sent to our members. We would love to share your stories with our global as well as local sister city friends and colleagues.

The Group has a couple of Moderators whose role it is to approve new members, respond to questions about the page, and also to make sure that the content and comments are solely to do with Sister City activities and news. The

Moderators will not hesitate to delete inappropriate material and can also ban people who abuse our friendship.

I encourage you to join the Group ([click here to access](#)) and not only will you keep up-to-date with SCA activities, those of our members, but also with like-minded organisations across the globe who have links to Australia and our cities and people.

The Group has been set-up for your use and we encourage you to use it as often as you want to highlight the wonderful things that are occurring in the name of Sister City relationships.

Mike Jakins: National Secretary  
Sister Cities Australia

## SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM BUNDABERG 20 Year Anniversary Celebrations.

In 2018 Bundaberg Regional Council will celebrate the 20 year anniversary of its Sister City relationship with Nanning, China.



Nanning Gardens - lake view

During those 20 years, both Bundaberg and Nanning have been honoured with national awards in recognition of the positive outcomes achieved through the Sister City relationship which has included trade, educational and cultural exchange.

Chair of Council's Sister City Committee Cr Ross Sommerfeld said, to mark the anniversary, the Bundaberg Region would welcome a delegation from Nanning in May.

"On May 12, the day of our Sister City anniversary, we will join the delegation in officially opening our newly redeveloped Nanning Gardens which was made possible thanks to a generous \$1.2 million donation from the Nanning People's Government," Cr Sommerfeld said.

"The gardens now feature a high degree of cultural accuracy and represents the goodwill that has been created through our long standing relationship.

"We will take this opportunity to unveil a monument within the gardens which will be erected in honour of the 20 year anniversary and the contribution the Nanning People's Government has made to our community."

That evening the delegation will attend an official dinner with all past mayors who have assisted in building and maintaining the Sister City relationship as well as former Sister City Committee chair Adele Freeman.

Bundaberg's Chinese New Year Celebrations held in February provided another opportunity to welcome a delegation from Nanning.

Cr Sommerfeld said each year Nanning provided a delegation made up of dignitaries and performers to celebrate Chinese New Year in the region.

In addition to joining the celebrations, the delegation toured the region. Highlights of the visit

included snorkelling on Lady Musgrave, touring the Bundaberg Rum facility and sampling local produce.



Nanning delegation enjoys trip to Lady Musgrave Island

Kim Ovens, Protocol Officer

[Kim.Ovens@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kim.Ovens@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

## SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM MELBOURNE, VIC

### A trip of a lifetime!

"A beautiful clean city, amazing architecture, picturesque countryside and stunning beaches, welcoming and friendly people with a strong sense of punctuality." That is how some of the students from the 1st Junior High School Voula in Athens described Melbourne and its people.



The twenty-two students were accompanied by three members of the teaching staff - Principal Dr Maria Kaskantami, Vice Principal and Information Technology Teacher Ioanna Gardiki and English Language Teacher Angeliki Methodiou. They were assisted in their visit to Melbourne by Christina Despoteris Executive Member of Sister Cities Australia. The group was visiting their sister-school Alphington Grammar as part of the e-twinning program "Building Bridges across Continents".

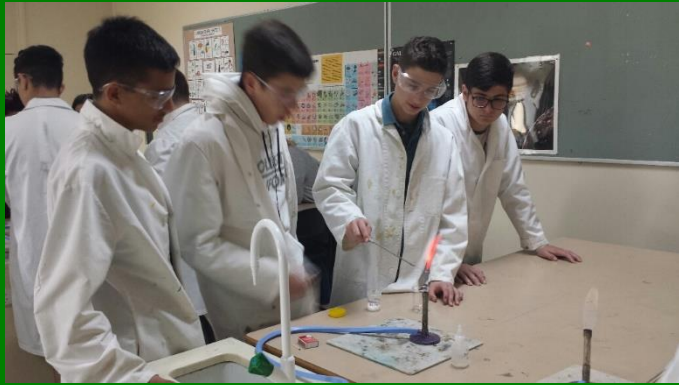
"The students had the opportunity to see and do things during their ten-day visit which other local students their age have not had the chance to experience", Christina Despoteris said.

"They visited and had a tour of the Victorian Parliament House hosted by Steve Dimopoulos MP and Murray Thompson MP, had lunch at the new Greek Cultural Centre hosted by its President Bill Papasteriadis, visited both the Shrine of Remembrance and the Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial, had lunch at the Botanical Gardens, went to Puffing Billy, travelled along the Great Ocean Road, visited the Aquarium, Eureka Skydeck, Luna Park and the Melbourne Zoo", added Christina.

Of course, the study tour could not have been complete without the involvement of Alphington



Grammar and its teaching staff and students who prepared a very exciting program of events. Dr Vivianne Nikou Principal welcomed the students to the school, Toula Terezaki and Denise Diakodimitriou organized several activities including a debate about the Greek Language, some Chinese calligraphy classes, chemistry



experiments and some sporting activities. They enjoyed a lovely Australian BBQ lunch prepared by the parents and teachers and had the opportunity to taste the Aussie pie and lamingtons. That evening they went to the Multicultural Market and tasted dishes like crocodile and kangaroo.

This type of activity would not be possible without the generous support of the local community. The Pontiakia Estia hosted a tavern night and also gave the opportunity to the students to get up and do some Greek dancing. The Institute of Macedonian Studies organized a lecture and dinner. Professor Dr Anastasios Tamis President spoke about the importance of retaining the mother tongue in the diaspora and gave the students a personalized diary with a cover photo of the students at Parliament House.



The Greek Community of Dandenong invited the group to Sunday Liturgy, organized a lovely lunch and the teachers of the Greek School arranged some educational activities. There was also a presentation of some Greek dancing. The visiting

students then joined in as well. A great time was had by all.

Other official visits included visiting the Archdiocese Church in South Melbourne and meeting with His Grace the Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church and meeting the new Consul-General of Greece in Melbourne. They also went to Eaton Mall the Greek precinct in Oakleigh and went on a cruise along the Yarra.



The students were very impressed with the generosity and warm hospitality of the local community and went away with some amazing and memorable experiences.

"I am sure they have made some great friendships which will remain with them all their lives. This was a trip of a lifetime for these students. The vivid images of the city, the warm smiles of the people and their generous hospitality, as well as the amazing experiences, will serve as a reminder of this incredible adventure," Christina concluded.

You can view a video of the trip – click [HERE](#).

There is also a Web blog of the project – click [HERE](#).

Christina Despoteris



# NEWSLETTER

[www.sistercitiesaustralia.com](http://www.sistercitiesaustralia.com)

April 2018

## 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](#).

## Komaki City, Aichi, Japan

Komaki City is actively looking for a sister city in Australia – if you would like more details please check out the full information sheet at [Komaki City Information Sheet](#).

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH SCA

### Your SCA Committee

**President** – Bill Wilson

Mobile: 0439 363 149

Email: [Click here to email Bill](#)

**Vice President** - Jan Teasdale

Mobile: 0407 442 136

Email: [Click here to email Jan](#)

**Treasurer** - Caisley Graham

Mobile: 0412 571 041

Email: [Click here to email Caisley](#)

**Secretary** - Mike Jakins

Mobile: 0417 176 568

Email: [Click here to email Mike](#)

**Executive Member** - Sim Hayward

Mobile: 0417 784 341

Email: [Click here to email Sim](#)

**Executive Member** - Christina Despoteris

Mobile: 0413 943 796

Email: [Click here to email Christina](#)

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](http://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 Group 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 \(plus up to 4 images\)](#)

[Opt out of receiving the Newsletter](#)

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.