

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A special report this month from the Vice President of SCA, Jan Teasdale.

It is indeed a privilege to write the message for the August edition of the SCA newsletter.

Firstly, a little about my journey into sister cities.

In 1984 the cities of Belmont in Western Australia

and Adachi in Tokyo in Japan established their Sister City relationship. 1986 saw the first student exchanges commence between the two cities. It was my pleasure to be the female chaperone on the 1987 City of Belmont annual student delegation to Adachi. It was a very special time in the lives of myself, my family and the sister cities.

From this exchange, as with numerous similar exchanges in Australia between Sister Cities, many doors have been opened, community groups have been linked, businesses expanded, young people have been given the opportunity to experience a new culture, and perhaps begin a worthy career. During a recent visit by a delegation from Adachi, past student Bryce, now at university and studying Japanese, was the interpreter for the Welcome and Farewell functions.

Mitch, who is also a past student and the recipient of a JET program appointment in Japan for 2 years, now has a job in Tokyo. Doors were opened, careers achieved!

This was my welcome to Sister Cities in Australia!

As the SCA Committee Member responsible for the Awards Program I'd like to say a few words here on this subject. The SCA National Awards Program was implemented some years ago to enable member cities to record and enter successful Sister City activities held both locally and in their sister city networks overseas. Regularly the awards committee reviews procedures to ascertain the most efficient way to oversee and create these awards.

Changing times and new technology will see a new look for the 2017 SCA National Awards Program. We encourage your city to enter as it is a wonderful opportunity for you to highlight the great work that happens in your communities. Your entry maybe related to a successful trade link, sporting, student or community activity. Now is the time to keep a diary of events, also collect photos and stories! An update on the details of the 2017 awards format will be emailed to all member cities.

If you are reading this and your city is not a member of SCA then please log onto the SCA Website (www.sistercitiesaustralia.com) and follow the Media/Documents links to the Membership Application forms. You can also contact any one of the SCA Committee who will be able to assist you – all committee members are listed at the end of this newsletter. Both Corporate and Individual members are welcomed.

Please note that planning is under way for a special SCA event which will be held in Melbourne later in the year and a special bulletin will be published soon with full details. We sure hope you will be able to join with us.

Updates on a couple of special events. Firstly, the 2016 Sister Cities NZ (SCNZ) annual conference was held in Nelson on 28 to 30 April, 2016. The theme of *Connecting People, Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future* was the background for our President Bill Wilson to give a very enlightening presentation on our SCA Youth Program.

Secondly, the Sister Cities International (SCI) Annual Conference celebrating 60 years was held in Washington DC on 13 to 16 July, 2016. Very proudly representing SCA in attendance was our newest executive member Mike Jakins, who was holidaying in the USA at the time. You can read his report on the conference in this newsletter.

People unite world-wide through Sister Cities

We hope you enjoy this August edition of the SCA Newsletter.

Special thanks to editor Mike Jakins for his creativity.

Would your city have a tale to tell? If so, please email Mike at mikejakins@sistercitiesaustralia.com.

Yours in Sister City Peace.

Jan

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE

Sister City Program still as popular as ever

The City of Busselton welcomed 12 students from their Sister City Sugito Japan in early August as part of the Annual Busselton Sugito Student Exchange.



The visitors were home-hosted by local families for their 9 night stay. They also attended school with their hosts and had two tour days where they got to explore the local region.



This year they visited Dunsborough Primary School & Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, explored Ngilgi Cave and were taught to fish on the iconic Busselton Jetty. They also were given a tour of the Busselton Sea Rescue Facilities and had a chance to get on the water in the Sea Rescue's two rescue vessels.



The Sugito students who participated were from Sugito Higashi Junior High School, Hiroshima Junior High School and Higashi Junior High School.

12 Busselton Students from McKillop College, Georgiana Molly Anglican School and Cape Naturaliste College will travel to Sugito in the October School Holidays to enjoy their own homestay experience in a Japanese home.

Now in its 23rd year, the Busselton and Sugito Student exchange program is designed to open the eyes of local students to a new culture and make new friends through a variety of experiences.

It also enhances the sister city relationship by promoting mutual understanding, goodwill and friendship between the people of Busselton and Sugito.

You can follow the Busselton-Sugito relationship activities on their Facebook page – [click here](#).

SCA VERY SPECIAL ARTICLE

Sister City International 60th Annual Conference, July 2016

Committee executive member Mike Jakins and his partner, and SCA member, Lorraine Mercer were proud to be able to represent Sister Cities Australia at the 60th anniversary SCI conference held in Washington, DC, from July 13 to 16, 2016. Along with Kevin Hill, from NSW, and his wife I believe we

were the only Australian attendees among the more than 500 delegates.

The conference was made up of four separate components that were programmed to run together seamlessly. Firstly, the conference was an opportunity for all of the SCI leaders in each State



2Mike (2nd from left) and Lorraine (3rd from left)

across the USA to meet and complete their association formalities. Secondly there was a very successful youth summit that had 115 attendees from across the globe complete their own parallel program to the main conference. Thirdly was the main conference program of keynote sessions and information exchanges in concurrent sessions that were well attended, very informative and often extremely entertaining. Finally was the social program which included a welcome reception at the Japanese Ambassador's residence, city sightseeing tours, a Mayoral reception at the Chinese Embassy, and the closing Annual Awards dinner and fundraising auction.

There was also plenty of time between sessions to meet with other delegates and network. We have made some great new friends from Seattle, San Diego, Des Moines, Toledo, Scottsdale, Omaha and Further details, pictures and the outcomes of the Youth Summit are on the SCI website – [click here](#).

had the pleasure of meeting ambassadorial staff from Uganda and Rwanda. It was also a chance to enhance the relationship with the President of SCI, Mary Kane, and Vice President, Adam Kaplan – both of whom hope we can expand the relationship between SCI and SCA into the future and learn from each other.

Some of the program was very USA centred, however there was more than enough to keep overseas visitors like us engaged and also many lessons to be learned and opportunities to share information. I feel it is also possible for SCA to present on suitable topics at future SCI conferences as there are some ideas and activities in Australia that could be highlighted to other countries.



1Mary Kane, President of SCI

The conference was a great value to us, showing us that in Australia we are doing a lot of things right but there are always opportunities to improve. It will be important that SCA is represented at the 2017 conference which is to be held in Virginia Beach to continue this learning journey.

Images courtesy of Sister Cities International.

SCA – A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Directory of Australian Sister City Affiliations

SCA sent out its initial directory of Australian Sister City affiliations and it has been warmly received. A big thank you to those who have taken the time to contact us with corrections and amendments. All these changes will be reflected in the next edition of the directory.

If you spot any additional errors or omissions then please [click here to email Mike](#) – you can also contact Mike if you need a copy of the directory to be sent to you.

Please note that Friendship Agreements will not be listed in the directory as they are outside the remit of SCA.



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

August 2016

SCA SPECIAL NOTICE FOR MEMBERS

GST NO LONGER CHARGED BY SCA – from the Treasurer.

Over recent years this Organisation has been subject to regular requests and demands from the Australian Taxation Office to submit Tax Returns. Following a number of discussions with the ATO it was established that this situation arose due to the fact that it was registered for GST. After further discussions it was determined that the income of the organisation was well below the amount requiring registration for GST and the ATO recommended that SCA cancel its GST registration to prevent further

requests and demands and also to maintain its status of a 'not for profit' organisation.

I approached a local firm of accountants who acted 'pro bono' on behalf of SCA and dealt with the ATO to cancel the GST registration and resolve the issue of the outstanding Tax Returns.

As from 1 July 2016 all Invoices issued by SCA will **NOT** contain the word 'Tax' will also **NOT** contain any amount of GST.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#)

Executive Member - Sim Hayward

Mobile: 0417 784 341

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

Executive Member - Mike Jakins

Mobile: 0417 176 568

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

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 \(plus up to 4 images\)](#)

[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.