

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello my Sister Cities friends. Can you believe we are now moving from winter into spring. A look around my garden and I enjoy the beautiful Magnolia blooms, the spring bulbs and the blossom that smothers several of my trees. This is a beautiful time in my home state of Tasmania and I am so blessed to live where we are free to partake of a loving and loved life. Is this not what the realm of Sister Cities should be?

Unfortunately in many areas of the World our counterparts do not enjoy the same freedoms and

we, through our involvement, must do all we can to assist in enriching the lives of our International friends. Are you involved in a program that furthers the ideal of people to people and if so, have you thought that perhaps there are others that would be interested to hear your story? Why not share it on our Facebook page or send a story to our Secretary for inclusion in a newsletter? Maybe even an Awards entry?

Thanks to Blacktown City Council for hosting the upcoming AGM and Forum in October. I, with the assistance of Secretary Mike, have forwarded invitations to attend and will be thrilled to see many of you in attendance. Perhaps you are unable to attend personally however give a thought to someone else who could represent your community and who may gain a great deal by attending. I can assure you the program will be packed with interest covering many facets of Sister Cities. It will also be a great night at the Awards Dinner so why not make it your intention to join us.

There are many milestones happening and to all those involved in anniversaries, congratulations on making it happen. Photos and stories from you would be greatly appreciated.

As part of the next Executive Meeting we will be conducting a warts and all review and looking to set the scene for the next twelve months of operations. This is your organization and we would appreciate your ideas so please forward to myself or any of your Executive.

Hope to see you in Blacktown.

Bill

## THE 2018 SCA AGM AND FORUM/WORKSHOP To Be Held in Blacktown, NSW, on October 16<sup>th</sup>...

The SCA President, Mr Bill Wilson, invites you to join with members of our association and other guests in Blacktown, NSW, for the 2108 SCA Annual General Meeting. The date is the 16th October, 2018 and will include a Forum/Workshop prior to the meeting.

The proceedings will commence at 9:00am, however you are more than welcome to arrive any time from 8:30am and share a tea or coffee with your executive. The actual AGM will commence at 12:40pm. There will be a special guest speaker and a complimentary lunch so please be part of this important occasion.

**For logistical and catering requirements I ask that you RSVP to by Tuesday 25th September by [CLICKING HERE](#).**

What: SCA Annual General Meeting

When: 12:40pm, 16th October, 2018

Where: Stanhope Leisure Centre, Stanhope Pkwy & Sentry Drive, Stanhope Gardens, NSW, 2768

Blacktown has a very diverse community and is justifiably proud of their four Sister City Relationships with: Porirua City, New Zealand; Suseong-Gu, Daegu City, Republic of Korea; Liaocheng City, Shandong Province, Peoples

Republic of China; and, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, NSW. Blacktown are also closely aligned with the League of Cities of the Philippines. I am sure they will be pleased to discuss any of their activities that keep all these relationships alive and vibrant.

Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact me directly via e-mail at [william.wilson@sistercitiesaustralia.com](mailto:william.wilson@sistercitiesaustralia.com), or phone on 0439 363 149.

## 2018 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

### The 2018 SCA National Awards have been judged and the winning entries selected.

To those cities who took the time to record their impressive Sister City projects as entries in this year's Awards: **Congratulations**

The winning cities will be announced in Blacktown, NSW at the Sister Cities Australia 2018 Forum and Annual General Meeting on Monday and Tuesday 15/16 October 2018

To the SCA Judging Panel, Senior Judge Mike Jakins, and judges Michael from Parkes and Colleen from Blue Mountains:

A great team effort.

**Many Thanks**

Sister Cities are a fulfilling journey in the lives of all who become involved. We encourage all councils around Australia who are actively engaged in a Sister City relationship to showcase their activities.

Now is the time to start preparing for your entry in the 2019 SCA National Awards. Times change, new systems, new people become involved. Perhaps a youth delegation is planned. Those new to the Sister City experience will broaden their horizons and

futures will be enhanced. That special sporting exchange, a cultural event, or a successful business exchange are all covered in the Awards Categories of:

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



**"Thinking of Entering an Award next year"**

Eligible Projects would take place between 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. For more information [CLICK HERE](#) to contact Jan by email.

Jan Teasdale

Coordinator SCA National Awards

## THE VICTORIAN SISTER CITIES FORUM



### An Overview of a Highly Successful SCA Forum

The following summary was provided by Christina Despoteris, Executive Member of Sister Cities Australia and Co-ordinator of the Victorian Forum.

"The Victorian Sister Cities Forum was a great success. Over 110 delegates attended with no less than eighteen presenters. As you all know the program was extensive covering many topics associated with sister city relationships.

A big thank you must go to The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC President of the Legislative Council and the Victorian Parliament for hosting the event.

As the coordinator and presenter on the day, I wish to sincerely thank all the speakers and delegates

for attending and making the inaugural Victorian Forum such a success.

Both Dr Hass Dellal AO Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Chairman of SBS Board of Directors; and Dr Vasilis Sarafidis Associate Professor Econometrics and Business Statistics at Monash University excelled with amazing presentations.

The Cities of Melbourne, Greater Dandenong, Greater Bendigo, Frankston, Hobsons Bay, the Rural City of Mildura as well as Buloke Shire, in turn, expanded on the various models of sister city

relationships including the economic development, cultural, community and much more.

Mr Kazuyoshi Matsunaga Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne also presented an interesting paper. A session on the origins of sister cities and one on the sister-schools model was also presented as well as a Q&A session. The Australia China Business Council launched "Sister City Bridge - A Report" on the day."

The full report, which is on the SCA website, can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM HAWKESBURY Celebrating their 30th Anniversary with Kyotamba Japan

In 1988 a relationship was formed between Hawkesbury and Tamba, Japan which is located in the heart of Japan's most historical prefecture, Kyoto. In recent years Tamba Town amalgamated



Farewelling Hawkesbury students after their 2017 visit to Kyotamba

with neighbouring towns and is now known as Kyotamba which resulted in Hawkesbury signing a reaffirmation of the relationship with Kyotamba in 2009. Like Hawkesbury City, Kyotamba has an agricultural base.

2018 is also the 30th anniversary of the student exchange program between Hawkesbury and Kyotamba. To mark the occasion the following letter was sent to Kyotamba:

*"On behalf of the Hawkesbury Sister City Association I send greetings of friendship to the Kyotamba International Exchange Association and the citizens of Kyotamba.*

*This year marks the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between our two communities and the strong bond and friendship between Kyotamba and Hawkesbury City is evident from the continued activities and programs run by our Associations.*

*Together we have run an extremely successful student exchange program that has allowed the youth of our two communities the opportunity to experience the lifestyle and culture of their sister city. Our student exchange program also celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with approximately 350 Japanese and Australian students benefitting directly from this program over the years.*

*I think both our Associations should be proud of the work we do and the success we have had facilitating the friendship of families in the Hawkesbury and Kyotamba. While there are differences in our lifestyle and culture, the fundamental qualities of caring for our children, being happy, healthy and caring for one another is the same and this is one of the great lessons we bring to our communities who have an involvement in our programs.*

*Personally I extend thanks and gratitude to the Kyotamba Association and community for welcoming me into your homes and region. I am extremely fortunate to have visited Kyotamba on a few occasions and, as well as enjoying the beauty and tranquillity of Kyotamba, I have also been lucky to have met many wonderful people and made some special friendships.*

*As we celebrate this momentous occasion I think it is important to look back at our achievements, but also to look forward to continuing the good job we do together.*



Kyotamba International Friendship Association Chairperson Mr Kitamura visits Hawkesbury



# NEWSLETTER

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

August 2018

*To our friends in Kyotamba, happy anniversary and thank you for your friendship."*

The Mayor and Council hosted a function in August at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Kyotamba, Japan. There were

displays of past Kyotamba gifts, historic past photos and traditional costume activities.

Tina Tallack  
President

Hawkesbury Sister City Association Inc.

## 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](#).

## 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.