

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe another year has virtually passed and I wish to thank you one and all who have worked to ensure your relationships have remained true to your ideals and upheld the proud name of Sister Cities throughout the World.

Once again there have been some wonderful programs run by so many Councils and Community Committees and it never ceases to amaze me to witness so many of these and the wonderful people who work to make them happen. From Darwin to Hobart, Perth to Sydney there have been some great projects and I thank each and every individual involved. Perhaps something you missed doing was actually sending your story to SCA so that via our website, Facebook page or newsletter it may be spread far more widely. Simply forward to myself or Mike and we shall do the rest.

Though 2016 shall go down as the one missed conference we did have a great get-together and the AGM in Melbourne on the 9th December. The Melbourne City Council, through our good friend Jane Sharwood, assisted in the facilitation and Clr. Philip le Liu was an interesting speaker. To those attending I thank you for your support and a special thank you to the many Individual Members who made the effort.

Next year is looking to be one of great excitement, a great conference and the return of our wonderful Awards Program. The Judges, led by Senior Judge Mike Jakins, have spent considerable time streamlining the entry process and in doing so have

made it much easier for you to submit an entry. More on this soon.

Many favourable comments have been forwarded to us after the updating and distribution of the Directory and it has been delightful to receive so many updates from Members. Please remember that this is your document which is only useful when it contains the correct information.

As is always the case any organization is only as good as its personnel and I am happy to report that the current Executive is a great team. As you are all aware we are all voluntary workers but I can assure you the work that has been done is first class. To Jan, Caisley, Sim and Mike I thank you on behalf of all Members for your sterling contribution.

SCA is currently looking at a Memorandum of Understanding with SCI (USA), SCNZ (New Zealand) and CPAFFC (China). We shall report back when further progress has been made, with the former two being updates however the latter will be a first.



AGM colleagues visit The White Tower

May I, on behalf of myself and all Executive Members wish you and yours a Safe, Peaceful, Happy and Joyous Christmas and may your New Year be filled with success and happiness.

Bill



Pictured left are SCA President, Bill Wilson, and Christina Despoteris, Vice President of the Thessaloniki Association in front of 'The White Tower' in the foyer of the Melbourne Town Hall.

The White Tower was a community project, which was gifted to the

City of Melbourne on Sunday 27 November 2016 during the Festival at the 32nd Anniversary celebrations of the Sister City relationship between Melbourne and Thessaloniki.

The project consisted of the constructing of a replica of "The White Tower", Thessaloniki's most famous landmark, which is covered with crocheted white flowers. These eight thousand flowers were crocheted by members of the Greek community and the broader Australian community.

Full details click here: [The White Tower webpage](#)

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM BUSSELTON, WA RIKAI (Understanding) – exhibition of Japanese artefacts



L to r: Mayor Grant Henley, Mrs Hirayama, Mr Hirayama, Pauline Vukelic

WA's new Japanese Consul General Mr Tatsuo Hirayama and his wife Mrs Sachiko Hirayama officially opened the art exhibition RIKAI (understanding) a Japanese art exhibition at Art Geo Gallery, Busselton on Saturday 5 November. The exhibition is one of many events created to mark the 20th anniversary of Busselton's Sister City relationship with Sugito in Japan.

The exhibition featured an eclectic mix of Japanese art forms, including woodblock prints, traditional kimonos and Ikebana-inspired floral pieces arranged by the Bunbury Flower Designers' Club (for one week only).

The woodblock prints by renowned master printmaker Hiroshi Tomihari (b. 1936) were gifted to the City of Busselton by the artist.

"It's fitting that some of Tomihari's work will be on show as part of the Sister City anniversary celebrations because the initial sister city discussions began when he visited Busselton as a guest of the Rotary Club to run a printmaking workshop," said ArtGeo Complex Coordinator Diana McGirr.

Tomihari has been named a National Treasure in Japan and his work is represented in major European galleries.

He specialises in a style of printmaking known as modern Moku Hanga. Repetitive rhythmic contours that allude to the female form or a single standing female figure often feature in Tomihari's compositions. Recognisable landmarks and wildlife are also popular motifs. Tuart trees, kangaroos, Wave Rock or the Perth city skyline reflect his many visits to Australia.



Some of the exhibits on display

The exhibition included a selection of intricate Kimonos and Obis, some of which have also been gifted to the City of Busselton. Among them are children's and wedding kimonos.

"We're thrilled to be showing this exhibition at ArtGeo Gallery as part of the Busselton and Sugito 20th Anniversary Celebrations" said Pauline Vukelic, President of the Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association. "It's the perfect way to launch the year-long celebration of our special relationship with the people of Sugito."

Rikai was on show at the ArtGeo Gallery in Queen Street, Busselton from Saturday 29 October to 4 December 2016.

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE – Report and Feedback CIFCC Conference, Chongqing, China 9-11 Nov 2016

Theme of the conference - 'Innovation for Development and Cooperation for Sharing'

[Editor's note: CPAFFC is the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries]

Over 600 delegates attended the conference from 263 countries plus representatives from over 30 Provinces in China.

The conference program was short and tight. Presenters from various countries spoke on the following topics -

1. Innovation Led City Development
2. Low Carbon City and Green Home
3. City Cultural Branding Through Opening Up
4. Tourism Innovation, the Incentive to Modern Service Industry



with President of CPAFFC and CIFCA Mdm Li Xiaolin

With 8 speakers per session a lot was presented in a full day. The first day concluded with the Welcome Banquet hosted by CPAFFC and the Chongqing Municipal Government. A gift was presented to Mdm Li Xiaolin on behalf of SCA (a book on Aboriginal art - a collection by the South Australian Art Gallery)-

Day 2 commenced with the signing ceremony for new sister cities and cooperation projects. This was followed by the Friendship City Awards Ceremony. In all 76 awards were presented to overseas cities, 37 to Chinese cities and another 4 for International Friendship City Awards of Special Contribution to Chongqing, Guangxi, Wuxi and Fuzhou.

Four award winners from Wuxi, Wuhan, Liege (Belgium) and East Java (Indonesia) shared their experiences and the programs that they have with their sister/friendship cities relationships.

Feedback from the attendees were shared and announced as the 'Chongqing Initiative'. The conference closed by 11.30 am with closing remarks by Vice President Xie Yuan of CPAFFC (opposite).

This was followed by the handover ceremony of the International Friendship Cities Conference Emblem to the next host city of Wuhan for 2018.

Following the conference, an opportunity availed for discussions with Mr Qing Boming, Secretary General of CIFCA and CPAFFC regarding an MOU between SCA and CIFCA/CPAFFC. This was received very favourably and suggestions for possible cooperation will be forthcoming to SCA for further consideration.

CIFCA have also proposed a China Australia Friendship Cities Conference to be held jointly in China for Australian cities who have sister and/or friendship cities/provinces in China. CIFCA offered to host the event at a chosen city in China with Australian delegates to pay own airfares. Conference and other expenses will be hosted by CIFCA and the host city.

May I take this opportunity to thank President Bill Wilson and Executives of SCA for nominating my representation at the CIFCC in Chongqing.

It has allowed dialogue to continue between our organisations as well as make new friends around the globe on behalf of SCA.



with Vice President of CPAFFC and CIFCA Mr Xie Yuan

Sim Hayward
Executive member SCA

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM BUSSELTON, WA Re-affirming sister city friendship in Sugito, Japan

City of Busselton Mayor, Grant Henley, CEO Mike Archer and Busselton Sugito Sister City Association President, Pauline Vukelic recently visited Japan and participated in two very special ceremonies.



The first ceremony held on the 28th of October was the official signing of the Mayors for Peace accord at Hiroshima Peace Park. Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 with the aim of achieving lasting world peace through inter-city solidarity. Our Sister City Sugito, joined Mayors for Peace in September 2010, the City of Busselton became a signatory to the global peace program earlier this year.

Speaking from Japan, Mayor Grant Henley said: "It was very moving to be in Hiroshima for the signing of the Mayors for Peace accord in the presence of both the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Mayor of Sugito. It was a very formal ceremony reflecting the City's sad history, but it was also very positive and I applaud the leadership role Japan has taken in the pursuit of world peace. Becoming a signatory of Mayors for Peace reflects our community's support for world peace and I was honoured to able to solemnize our collective commitment."



Mayor Henley also presented 1000 paper cranes made by Dunsborough Primary School students in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings. Like thousands of other cranes made by school children across the world, these cranes were hung in the Children's Memorial as a sign of peace.



The visit to Hiroshima coincided with commencement of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Busselton and Sugito Sister City relationship. Mayor Henley took part in a ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Sugito, Furuya Matsuo, which involved reaffirmation of the Sister City Agreement. "Our friendship with Sugito has strengthened over the last two decades and it is appropriate that we reaffirm our commitment at this important milestone," said Mayor Henley.

While in Sugito, City of Busselton representatives were also invited to join in the 400th Anniversary celebrations of Sugito as a post station on the old Nikko Highway, donning traditional samurai suits for the occasion.



The City of Busselton has kicked-off a year of celebration marking the 20th anniversary of its sister-city relationship with Sugito. Confirmed events include a Japanese Art Exhibition at ArtGeo (see story on page 2); Japanese Art workshops; the painting of a commemorative street mural; a BASSCA float in the annual float parade; and the



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inclusion of Japanese-themed activities in the Busselton Fringe Festival and Dunsborough Arts Festival. Fishbone Winery and Restaurant will also

be holding a celebratory lunch and Cherry Blossom Festival. For more information visit the event page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/basssca

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

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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](#)

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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.