

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR!

### Changes to our Distribution Frequency.

The SCA Newsletter is moving from being produced every two months to now being a quarterly edition. What does this mean? Maybe a slightly bigger newsletter to put an extra month's news and information into? It also means that you have a little more time to get your stories and pictures to me for inclusion so that we can share the wonderful work that is happening in the world of sister city relationships.

We look forward to your input from your organisation – so any stories, ideas, comments, suggestions that you may have please send them through to either myself or your President, Bill. Our contact details are towards the end of this newsletter.

Many thanks,

Mike Jakins,

SCA National Secretary and Newsletter Editor

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello again Members and friends of SCA. Here we are again with another bumper issue of our newsletter. I am sure there will be something to engage all and I would urge you to pass this on to any you think may have some interest.

Sad news recently with the passing of a long time mate and friend of SCA. Arthur Heiler was a great supporter of the organisation and was a wonderful help to myself in my early years of involvement. Our sincere condolences are sent out to Margaret and family.

What is the main ingredient for your interest in anything related to Sister Cities? Work, family, social conscience, friends, education, music, art, travel or perhaps something I haven't thought of. Over the years I have met and worked with many interesting and wonderful people and virtually all were truly dedicated to the ideals of people to people and wished to help make the world a better place to live. With all this I have often wondered why the membership has never been a priority.

SCA is your organization and needs your input to ensure that we, the volunteer executive, may carry on the work required to fulfil the wishes of the members. Have you ever considered being a paid up member and in so doing ensure that SCA may continue in to the future? Just \$50 will gain you full membership for a whole year and if you are connected to a Council or other organization that may benefit from our work just \$500 is the investment for a corporate member.

Next year will be an election year for the executive and we are now calling for expressions of interest from any who may have an interest to conduct a conference or forum, which would include our AGM and elections. Contact either myself or Secretary Mike for any information you may require.

As this will be our final issue for the year may I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for keeping the faith and ensuring our relationships continue to prosper. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with love and kindness with family and friends wherever they may be.

Yours in Sister Cities

Bill

## VALE ARTHUR HEILER

### In Memory of a True Ambassador for Sister Cities.

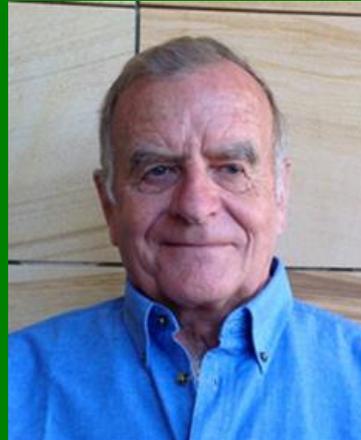
Arthur served as the National Treasurer for the previous iteration of SCA, the Australia Sister Cities Association as it was back then, from 1991 until he stepped down in 2001. SCA would like to acknowledge the huge commitment and support he gave to the Association, not only during his time in office, but also during his long association with sister cities in Bankstown and Port Stephens. Following is a fitting tribute from his friends and colleagues (thanks to Ted Tindall for these words):

#### ARTHUR HEILER – a lifetime of achievement.

It is with great sorrow we advise of the sudden passing of Arthur on 10th October 2018, aged 79 years.

He was a man with a lot of energy and determination, always willing to step up and achieve positive outcomes. In all his community activities he was kind, inspirational & a friend to all around him.

Arthur was a member of Bankstown Sister Cities for around 30 years & national treasurer of the then Australian Sister Cities Association before moving to Port Stephens where he was a member &



secretary of Port Stephens Sister Cities Committee for 24 years. He was a long term active member & divisional commander for 2 years of Port Stephens Marine Rescue, chair for 20 years of a local parks & reserves committee and director & deputy chairman of Fingal Bay Sports Club.

Arthur was actively involved when Port Stephens hosted the Sister Cities national convention in 1998 and when the Pacific Rim yachting championships were held there in 2000 - home hosting almost 100 crew and supporters from: Bellingham, USA; Victoria, Canada; Tateyama, Japan; Tauranga, New Zealand & Nahodka, Russia (all sister or friendship cities) sharing a week of yachting, cultural & social activities.

Arthur will be sadly missed but not forgotten by his many friends.

## WHY BE A MEMBER OF SCA?

### What are the membership benefits of being in the SCA?

We often get asked the question of what are the benefits of being a member of Sister Cities Australia. At present the following list itemises the benefits that membership brings:

- 1) **Support, Advice and Experience**, from your Executive, who have many years of hands-on experience with sister cities, building relationships, and helping others to do the same.
- 2) **Quarterly Newsletter**, have it delivered directly to you and others you nominate as soon as it is produced. You are also invited to share the stories of your committees, relationships and other sister city related activities with our readers.
- 3) **Host the SCA Annual Conference**, each year SCA seeks a member city to host the annual conference, including the AGM. SCA will provide whatever support it can to help ensure the total success of the conference.
- 4) **Have a Display at the Annual Conference**, the opportunity exists at the annual conference to have a display stand to allow you to showcase the achievements of your sister city relationship. Share them with others and enjoy stimulating conversations about those achievements and how they came about.
- 5) **Enter the National Awards**, only SCA member cities are eligible to enter the National Awards, which recognise excellence in sister city programs and relationships, your chance to highlight your city, your programs and your people.
- 6) **Participate on SCA's Executive**, be a voice on the Executive to determine the role of SCA and the future direction of the organisation. SCA is a member organisation and needs to have proper representation and input from you.
- 7) **Voting Rights at the AGM**, only members are eligible to vote on any motions at the AGM.

These maybe anything from electing Executive members, changes to the constitution, to ratifying Life Memberships.

8) **Networking with Other Cities**, SCA is able to provide direct one-to-one contacts or bring together groups at events such as State based forums. Networking is the ideal way to share

ideas, exchange information, make people aware of pitfalls and how to avoid them, and to even start new relationships.

If you would like to join SCA then please visit the SCA website by [CLICKING HERE](#) to download the Membership Application Form.

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

The SCA President, Mr Bill Wilson, and the Executive joined with members of our association and other guests in Blacktown, NSW, for the 2108 SCA Annual General Meeting.

Blacktown arranged a spectacular dinner event the evening before where SCA presented the 2018 Awards to the winners, and the entertainment showcased a variety of talent from the Blacktown community. It was great to mix with so many of the local people who had contributed so much to a very successful Sister Cities program.

The proceedings for the Forum/AGM commenced at 9:00am with welcomes from the Blacktown deputy mayor, Cr. Tony Bleasdale, and the SCA President, Mr Bill Wilson. During the Forum we heard a keynote address from Dr Jim Taggart OAM, two engaging case studies from Blacktown, and then two presentations from long time supporters of

SCA, CLAIR (Japan Local Government Centre) and the Korean Local Government Centre.

The actual AGM commenced at 12:40pm. Following the formalities the President made an announcement that due to his long standing support for sister cities, engaging as a member of the SCA Executive, and for driving sister city programs forward – Peter Filmer was to be made a life member of SCA. This decision was ratified previously by the Executive and endorsed by those present at the AGM. The AGM was closed by Bill at 1:05pm.



A full report on the Forum will be posted on the SCA website when available.

## 2018 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

The 2018 SCA National Awards have been presented.



The winning cities were announced in Blacktown, NSW at the dinner before the Sister Cities Australia 2018 Forum and Annual General Meeting on Monday 15 October 2018, and are:

### CATEGORY 1 (Community Involvement)

WINNER – **Blacktown**, for their 'Hangi in the Country 1' between themselves and Liverpool Plains Shire.

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Bundaberg, for '≈ 23° North and South' with Nanning, China

### CATEGORY 4 (Trade and Tourism)

WINNER – Cairns, for their Economic Delegation to Zhanjiang, China, 12-18 December 2017



Congratulations to the winners, all pictured above with the SCA Executive

## How to Enter the SCA National Awards for 2019.

These awards aim to encourage excellence and innovation in sister city activities, to develop a

permanent information resource for members to provide a forum for information exchange.



Comprehensive notes streamlining the process, Important Dates, Information and Category Criteria are detailed in the 2019 SCA Handbook, which will be emailed to SCA member cities in the

New Year. **Important date - Eligibility Period:** 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Categories are:

- **Community Involvement:** A project that demonstrates the widest possible community participation involving cultural differences or sporting activities between sister cities during the relevant period.
- **Youth Project:** a significant youth project that encouraged and stimulated youth participation in the local sister cities program. The project may include any number of activities including sporting, cultural, educational and fundraising projects.
- **New Affiliation:** This award is presented in recognition of new affiliations either completed

or well under way during the period under review.

- **Tourism and Trade:** This award is presented for an imaginative project that furthers the development of tourism and trade between sister cities whilst at the same time promoting the ideals of people-to-people contact during the eligible period.
- **Overall Program:** The "Overall Program Award" is presented to the member that has been able to demonstrate continuity of activity, citizen and community involvement at all levels and shown imagination in a wide range of projects and activities.

**Past, present and future:** Record that special event with your Sister City.

**For further information contact:**

Jan Teasdale

Coordinator SCA National Awards

## SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM PERTH 10-year Perth-Seocho Friendship Anniversary



In 2008 the City of Perth established a Charter of Mutual Friendship with Seocho, Republic of Korea to facilitate mutually beneficial opportunities for both cities. This year the Perth and Seocho celebrate the 10-year Anniversary of our friendship.

In recognition of this milestone Anniversary Mrs Eun-Hee Cho, Mayor of Seocho and a delegation from the Seocho Government travelled to Perth across the 14-16 November to take part in anniversary celebrations and meet with Perth stakeholders.

Despite a short programme the delegation, with the assistance of the International Engagement Team, were able to pack in a great number of activities, the first being a meeting with the Chair Commissioner of the City of Perth followed by a Civic Reception, in honour of the Anniversary.

The reception was well attended and provided opportunity for representatives involved in Perth-Korea trade, local Korean community organisations, Korean-language academics and students, amongst many others to engage with the Seocho delegation.

The program also provided opportunity for the Mayor and delegation to participate in discussions with local stakeholders such as the Perth Material Recovery Facility in South Guildford, the Planning and Transport Research Centre at the University of Western Australia and our very own City of Perth Library.

Additionally, the program also allowed the delegation to experience firsthand some of the City's great tourist icons including: Kings' Park; the Bell Tower; the Art Gallery of Western Australia; as well as locations further afield such as Cottesloe Beach and Little Creatures Brewery.

The delegation's experience in Perth was very well received and demonstrated the goodwill and opportunity that is shared between Perth and Seocho.

Rosmund Ashling  
International Engagement Officer  
City of Perth

## SCA SPECIAL ARTICLES FROM HAWKESBURY

### Two articles from exchange students visiting sister cities

#### FIRST - Exchange student to Temple City, Los Angeles, USA. August/September 2018

Excited to be reunited with our American siblings (explain further) and keen to meet our host families, six Aussies adventured across seas to the golden state of California. The trip kicked off at Joanna's house with a much-needed nap. Everyone claimed their spot on one of the reclining chairs and closed their eyes, not realising what was in store for us in the coming weeks.



This trip has opened not only my eyes but the eyes of all 6 Hawkesbury exchange students to new experiences ranging from eating different foods to the being exposed to new cultures.

Getting to see and visit new places was a highlight of the trip. This included touring around Temple City and Californian landmarks as well as American schools and homes.

Our first big step was adjusting to home life and going to school, which are both big parts of living in another country. I noticed that school was very different. An example of this is not having to wear a uniform (which was awesome), but at times I found it difficult trying to pick out a cute new outfit to wear every day.



Our schedule was jam-packed with fun and exciting new adventures. We had not only the opportunity

#### SECOND - Exchange student to Kyotamba, Japan. August/September 2018

In the past month 5 Australians adventured overseas to Japan on a 12 hour flight. We arrived at 9:30pm, grabbed a quick sushi snack and after this we were off to our Sister City Kyotamba.

to attend school but also learn about organisations that are doing great things for the local communities.

Of course, what trip to California is complete without a trip to the happiest place on earth, Disneyland and California Adventure? It was a



thrilling experience for everyone involved.

My favourite part about this trip was getting to meet new people and forming new friendships that I never thought I would have the chance to create. Through the experience given to me by the Hawkesbury Sister City and Temple Sister City Associations in America I have gained lifelong friends, but not only in America but with my fellow Australian Ambassadors. I was so lucky to share this once in a lifetime trip with each of them.

This was such a unique and rare experience that I am so lucky to have been given. The Temple City Sister City Association put in so much time and effort into making every day in the USA unforgettable. I am so grateful to have been chosen for this life changing experience and have cherished every moment. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Madeline MICHELUTTI

Hawkesbury Exchange Student

Kyotamba is a small town a few hours out from one of the main cities Kyoto we eventually arrived around 12.30am very tired. That night we stayed at a committee members house.

In the morning we were greeted by a traditional Japanese breakfast including miso soup, sea weed



rice, Japanese green tea and various cold meats. This was a good way to kick off our first day in Japan. That day we met so many kind committee members including Mrs Yano and Myuki they taught us some Japanese phrases and showed us around the beautiful Kyotamba. We headed to the local shopping centre Markeds for lunch We were all very overwhelmed with the delicious smells and sight of all the different food, so much variety!

One of the highlights of the trip was going to school. Myself and two other student from our group attended Komono Jnr High for 3 days. As it was a junior high school there was only years 7-9. Two students attended Mizaho for three days. Whilst at school we met so many awesome people and made so many memories. The best parts of going to school in Japan was getting involved in English classes. Our group helped the kids improve their English as well as with their classroom work.



We luckily also attended their Culture Festival which only happens once a year. We also experienced the whole school come together to compete in singing on a Saturday! The competition was Class Vs Class, Year Vs Year and Teachers Vs Students. It was a very interesting to be able to be a part of it.

Another unforgettable day on our exchange was when we visited some hot springs. We started the day by eating at a traditional restaurant we had Japanese curry, soup, tempura or shaved ice after the meal we were very full and it was so delicious. The hot springs were a bit like a day spa in the mountains with several little pools that were around 40 degrees. There was such variety from an indoor and outdoor, single person jet back massagers, a stand up spa even a lap pool. Here

we experienced our first Onsen which is a traditional bath house.

Another day on our trip we were taken to a Ninja Village, a place I will never forget! Here learnt the ancient art of being a Ninja. We dressed as ninjas crawled through secret tunnels, walls and hid. We had so much fun trying and failing at each of the different obstacles. By the end of the day we all had earned our very own Ninja licence. This really was an amazing day!

One of the biggest highlights of the trip was an overnight stay in Hiroshima. We headed there by Hiroshima bullet train ride it took about 2.5 hours. We visited the museum dedicated to World War two and the Atomic Bomb. This museum was eye opening as it showed the before and after effects of the Atomic bomb



the lifelong struggles war especially the Atomic Bomb has caused. It gave a real feeling to what we have learnt in History at school in Australia. Close to the museum there is the Peace Memorial dedicated to the children effected by the war. People who visit from all over the world make paper cranes a symbol of peace and leave them there. Our goal was to make 200 paper cranes we ended up making just over 250 paper cranes which we left at the memorial. While at Hiroshima we walked through the peace park and also A dome where the Atomic bomb exploded. Hiroshima was



something that none of us will ever forget and reinforced to us the need for friendships to unite the world and peace.



# NEWSLETTER

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

December 2018

In the last week in Japan we all attended Shuchi High School which is made up of years 10 to 12. At Shuchi High School we participated in PE, English classes, art, homeroom and Agriculture. In Agriculture we learned how to farm rice and pick radishes. It was a lot of fun. In English we shared lots with the students about life in Australia as well as participated in a debate. In art we learnt about flower arranging also made our own stamp with our name in it. Japan was an experience that is going

to stay me and the other students for a very long time, I think sister cities is an amazing program. It's not just the excursions and school but the wonderful bond of friendship you make with your host family, committee and the community of Kyotamba.

Matthew HOLMAN  
Hawkesbury Exchange Student

## 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.