

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Amazing how much wiser my late Father has become as I have grown older. I well remember him telling me to make the most of my time for as I aged it would go faster. Of course with the wisdom of youth on my side I thought it

was rather silly but I can now certainly attest to the truth of Dad's statement. Why do I pass this on to you? Well I know that there are many individuals and organizations that look to do that special project, later. Don't hesitate folks - get to work on it now and in the future you will look back with pride on what you achieved. Maybe there is an Award entry in the offing?

Over the years there have been so many wonderful events and exchanges between so many diverse

communities and looking back on my near thirty year involvement I think of all the wonderful people who have been involved in so many of these. How sad that in many instances it is extremely difficult to gain media exposure when on the reverse we see the mass media frenzy when horrible tragedies are brought upon us. What a wonderful change it would be for the work done by so many tens of thousands around the World in the name of Sister Cities could receive just some of this attention. Is it the media or us that is at fault? Maybe we are too passive and don't work closely enough with the media and in many instances do not promote the work we do.

Sister Cities Australia only exists for you, the Members, and to this end I ask you to let us know what you believe we, your Executive, should be focusing on. Either by phone, email or via our Facebook Group page we would be delighted to have your feedback.

Yours in Sister City Friendship,

Bill Wilson

President

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH SISTER CITY ACTIVITIES REIGNS IN BLACKTOWN, NSW AND FRANKSTON, VIC.



Excellent entries in the **2017 Sister Cities Association National Awards**, could not define an outright winner. The "New Look" Awards criteria and entry form meant that participating cities were able to produce a quality submission,

resulting in dual awards in **Category 1. Community Involvement.**

WINNING CITIES CELEBRATING ARE:

Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council, NSW - Community Partnerships Program (CPP)

Frankston City Council, Victoria and Susono, Japan - 2016 Japanese Festival held at Frankston High School

SCA National Awards Co-coordinator Jan Teasdale announced the winners at the AGM Meeting in

Mildura, Victoria, in December 2017. City of Blacktown representative Peter Filmer was present and able to receive the awards on behalf of Blacktown City Council.

Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council, NSW

The CPP commenced in September 2015. The key principle of this community based inclusive program was to facilitate the bringing together of identified and comparable community groups from both partners using Sister Cities as the catalyst for participation and involvement.

Thirteen community groups from Blacktown visited Liverpool Plains in either 2015 or 2016 to meet directly with their counterparts while experiencing old style country hospitality during the 3-day visits, directly reaching over 1,000 persons in both locations.

The 2016 visit also included youth delegates from Suseong-gu, Blacktown's Sister City in South Korea who participated in this very unique and inclusive community driven project.



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

August 2017

Frankston City Council, Victoria and Susono, Japan - 2016 Japanese Festival

This prestigious national award is recognition for the 2016 Japanese Festival held at Frankston High School in April during the Susono delegation visit for all the effort and great work put in to ensure such a successful Festival at such a great venue!

SCA executive member **Christina Despoteris** who resides in Victoria was delighted to present the award to the Mayor of the City of Frankston Cr Colin Hampton and a similar trophy was also presented to Peter Patterson the Chairperson of the Frankston Susono Friendship Association to pass on to the City of Susono.

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!

The **2018 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS HANDBOOK** was circulated to all member cities in February 2018. If your city is a member and you have not received this year's Handbook please contact me via email or mobile phone.

Eligible projects are those that take place between **1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018**

A Notice of Intention to Enter (in the Handbook) needs to be completed and received by Mrs. Jan Teasdale, Chair, SCA National Awards, not later than **Fri 27th April, 2018**.

Mail: PO Box 968 Cloverdale WA 6985.

Phone: (08) 9470 2664 Mobile: 0407 442 136,

Email: jan.teasdale@sistercitiesaustralia.com

2018 Award Categories are:

1. Community Involvement
2. Youth Project
3. New Affiliation
4. Trade & Tourism Project
5. Overall Program

The final day for 2018 entries to be in the hands of the judges is **FRIDAY 3rd AUGUST, 2018**.

For further information contact SCA National Awards Chair, Jan Teasdale

EXTRA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM SCA

The Brand New SCA Facebook Group.

After a few attempts to create an SCA Facebook page that was interactive, useful and easy to follow it was decided that this wasn't going to work as we'd hoped. The decision was then made to create a new Facebook Group that anyone can join, contribute to and invite their friends or colleagues to join as well.

We now have the added option to post various types of files, that can't be done on a Facebook Page, including our bi-monthly newsletter. We will still send the newsletter directly to our members first, then post the newsletter for global viewing a few days later.

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 CAIRNS

Lae delegation 5 to 8 October 2017.

The Sister City relationship between Cairns and Lae was established in 1984. Lae is the second largest city in PNG and shares a similar history to Cairns having being founded on gold mining and agriculture.



From 5 to 8 October 2017, a delegation from Cairns visited Lae with an emphasis on continuing to develop the close economic and cultural

ties between the two cities. The delegation was jointly led by Ms Sim Hayward, Cairns Sister City Ambassador, and Gary Aylward, Founding Member of Tradelinked Cairns & PNG. A number of Cairns based businesses who are members of Tradelinked Cairns & PNG, an association whose aim is to build on the existing business links between Cairns and PNG for the benefit of both communities, also attended.

The delegation attended the Morobe Show, an annual show hosted in Lae and one of the region's



largest annual events with a focus on agriculture, horticulture, livestock, commercial, industry, education and culture activities, displays and events. Delegates also met with the Honourable John Rosso, MP for Lae, and attended a number of Lae Chamber of Commerce Events and specific sister city forums and events focusing on how the close relationship between Cairns and Lae can continue to be strengthened.

The delegation was an important milestone in reconfirming the strong links between Cairns and Lae and in fostering the relationships that will ensure those close links are continued for the mutual benefit of both communities.



A return delegation from Lae to Cairns, including the Hon John Rosso MP, is planned for February 2018. The sister city relationship between Cairns and Lae has been a critical foundation in supporting the close ties between the two communities and in fostering ongoing interaction and collaboration.

Nick Masasso, Executive Project Officer at Cairns Regional Council

EXTRA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM SCA 2017 AGM Held in Mildura, December 8.



The warm welcome given to SCA in Mildura on arrival in the city was just the start of a great visit to this hospitable place on the banks of the Murray River. The evening before the AGM the Mayor of Mildura, Cr

Mark Eckel, hosted a formal welcome reception which was followed by an enjoyable trip down the Murray River on-board one of the river's famous paddle steamers.

The AGM on Friday was preceded by an open forum where those present were asked to provide their thoughts, comments, ideas and suggestions on the role and profile of SCA and sister cities in general. A number of excellent comments and suggestions were raised and your Executive will be working through these during 2018.



The formalities of the AGM were duly completed with reports from the President and Treasurer

before elections for all positions were instigated. Many thanks to Rhonda Monaghan, Mildura City Council, for taking the Chair as Returning Officer while all positions were declared vacant. As there were no new nominations your Executive Committee was returned unopposed.

For those of us visiting Mildura for the first time, or those wishing to see more of the district, some of the Mildura Sister City Committee extended us their hospitality and provided a guided tour of the area and took us to some of the 'must see' places. Thank you for your generosity, hospitality and friendship in the short time that we were with you.

Mike Jakins: National Secretary
Sister Cities Australia

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM CAIRNS Zhanjiang delegation 12 to 18 December 2017.



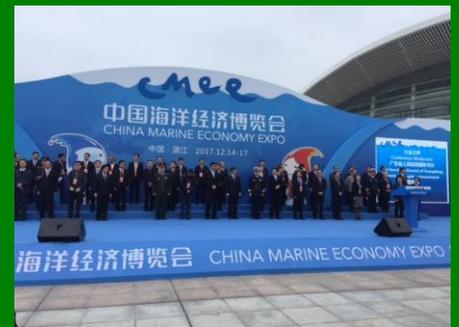
Cairns' sister city relationship with Zhanjiang was formalised with the signing of a sister city agreement on 25 August 2004.

Zhanjiang is one of 15 cities in the southern province economic zone of mainland China, and is close to Hong Kong situated in the delta of the Pearl River system. Zhanjiang is the major southern port and west of the region's capital Guangzhou (Canton) in Guangdong region. The peninsula city is the focus of a large mining and mineral exploration region as well as the port gateway to some of the largest agricultural producing areas in Southern China.

China has 34 regions of which the Guangdong covers a staggering 180,000 square kilometres. Between 12 and 18 December 2017, a delegation from Cairns visited Zhanjiang. The delegation was led by Councillor Terry James, Deputy Mayor Cairns Regional Council with support from Ms Sim Hayward Cairns Sister City Ambassador. Angelo Finocchiaro, Council's Program Leader of Economic Development and representatives of Tourism Tropical North Queensland (the Cairns region's leading destination marketing organisation) and Study Cairns (a peak organisation representing the

Cairns region's education and training network) also participated in the delegation.

The delegation attended the 2017 China Marine Economy Expo and also met with the Zhanjiang Education Bureau, Zhanjiang Tourism Bureau, Zhanjiang Farm Bureau and others to explore opportunities for cooperation in the fields of culture, education, tourism, agriculture, economy and trade. Coinciding with establishment of direct flights between Cairns and Guangzhou by China Southern Airlines and direct flights between Cairns and Shenzhen by Hainan Airlines, the delegation was an important initiative in fostering closer relationships between Cairns and China more broadly.



An invitation to the Mayor of the Zhanjiang Municipal People's Government to undertake a reciprocal visit to Cairns in future has been extended by Councillor Bob Manning, Mayor of Cairns Regional Council.

Nick Masasso,
Executive Project Officer, Cairns Regional Council

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM WEST AUSTRALIA Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre.

Konnichiwa! After many years of observing from the sidelines Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre is excited to become involved in Sister Cities Australia in 2018. Although we are primarily focused on various Japanese relationships, we are keen to learn more about the other international connections enjoyed around Australia.

Hyogo Prefecture, Japan and Western Australia have enjoyed a strong, active, and mutually beneficial Sister State relationship since 1981. Hyogo Government established an office in Perth in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the relationship and the Western Australian Government responded by adding to their existing Tokyo office and opening a second office in Hyogo's capital of Kobe. These offices support our respective governments in the wealth of Sister State exchange activities that take place in the fields of economy, industry, education, sport, culture, art, and youth.

Hyogo Cultural Centre operates on a member basis and offers the largest resource library of Japan related materials to the people of WA. Activities include promoting Japanese language and culture by running adult language classes, cultural seminars, and school workshops, promoting Hyogo tourism, establishing connections between like-minded people and organisations of the two regions, and supporting existing sister school, sister city, and sister organisation relationships.



In 1997 Hyogo Cultural Centre was the driving force behind connecting the cities of Ako and Rockingham in a formal Sister City relationship. These two cities have since

enjoyed numerous people to people exchange activities with one of the most popular being the Ako City Children's Choir visits. These initial visits led to the establishment of a Rockingham

Children's Choir, which made several return visits to Ako. Having watched this relationship strengthen over the years it was a great pleasure to be part of the 20th anniversary celebrations and re-signing of the agreement just a few months ago.



Another very successful and long standing Hyogo related (although not formalised Sister City) friendship

relationship is that between Takarazuka City and the City of Melville. These two cities have enjoyed many mayoral visits, school exchanges, and artist visits. To recognise this long friendship the City of Melville decided to hold a Melville Matsuri in 2016 with all kinds of Japan related activities and performances. Hyogo Cultural Centre happily participated by running a stall promoting the City of Takarazuka, which is famous for its internationally renowned all female revue as well as the museum dedicated to Osamu Tezuka, the creator of Astro Boy. The people of Melville were thrilled that their Sister City had a presence at the festival through our promotion and it also allowed us to share information of the Sister State relationship.

Like SCA, Hyogo Cultural Centre aims to encourage friendship, cooperation, and understanding and is therefore involved in a wide range of activities and networks. We look forward to learning more about SCA's activities, meeting members, and advancing our mutual goals. Let's have a great year together promoting peace and mateship!

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Melissa Luyke, Deputy Director

Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre

www.hyogo.com.au

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](#). Here is an introduction to the city, from the sheet:

Komaki city was established in 1955, since then it has been developed into a leading industrial inland city by taking advantage of its outstanding geographic feature as a traffic node for entry to Chubu Area via Prefectural Nagoya Airport, and the Tomei, Meishin and Chuo Expressways. Komaki city is home to companies with the most advanced technologies we are proud of; such as MRJ and companies related to H-II A rocket. Komaki city is blessed with wonderful culture and nature, Mt. Komaki and many other historical assets.



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

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.