

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello fellow Sister City converts. As I sit here safe and secure in my home in beautiful Tasmania, my mind travels back over the last few tumultuous months and wonders how and why the Human Race always seems to be able to find a way to do things that have never been done before. On a personal level I thought that having lived through The Vietnam War and surviving cancer, my big adventures may well have been behind me. Little did I know what was around the corner. The wonderful thing is how well ordinary people have banded together to do extraordinary things during the Covid19 crisis. On the other hand the outright greed and hate from so many has been exposed from the latest incidents in the US. This has spread so much hatred and fear around the World and made one ashamed to be from the same species. So many who had struggled through the COVID crisis have been absolutely ruined by hoodlums, vandals and thugs trashing and burning so many businesses and buildings. The monetary cost will be enormous but more importantly has been the cost to humanity.

From all of the turmoil there have been and will be stories of love, help and understanding but one really has to wonder as to how far the hatred has

set back the work of organizations such as SCA and our International counterparts. I have already had relayed to me the reports of unprovoked attacks upon those in our community of Asian descent as those who know no better and judge too quickly, have tagged them all as Chinese and responsible for the Virus. Wherever it was produced and whomever produced it will be judged by history but in the meantime we as citizens, sharing the same planet, cannot allow this to destroy the work of so many in cementing so many wonderful relationships between like-minded communities throughout the world. I urge you all to move forward in your endeavours to make your contributions to World Peace meaningful and lasting.

Unfortunately SCA had to take the difficult decision to cancel this year's Forum in Darwin. To the City of Darwin we offer our thanks for their offer to host and are certainly sorry we shall not be venturing to their beautiful city in the short term. The executive will be discussing options in the near future to decide upon the road forward and to make plans for our next Forum and indeed our AGM.

Following on from the above cancellation we made the extremely hard decision to not hold the 2020 Awards. These will not be lost though and will now be held for the 2020/2021 years. Information regarding relevant dates will be distributed in the near future.

In the meantime should you have any questions in regard to any of the operations of SCA in the current climate please feel free to contact any of the Executive Members.

I wish you Peace and safety in these trying times and look forward to when we can get back to some level of normal.

Yours in Sister Cities,
Bill Wilson, President
Sister Cities Australia

What's new in this issue?

- ✓ [2020 Annual Forum and AGM](#)
- ✓ [SCA National Awards - **UPDATE**](#)
- ✓ [SCNZ Conference Information - **UPDATE**](#)
- ✓ [SCNZ Newsletter](#)
- ✓ [Sharing Request to All](#)

2020 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

As mentioned by SCA President Bill Wilson, above, the National Awards for 2020 have been cancelled due to the on-going COVID19 crisis. In order to provide a level playing field for all of our members the National Awards in 2021 will cover entries that reflect projects and activities over two years – both 2020 and 2021.

Full details of the requirements for the 2021 National Awards will be developed and circulated later via the usual provision of the Awards

Handbook. SCA will also provide updates via emails, the newsletter and our social media pages when new information becomes available.

We look forward to once again being able to read about and recognise all of the great work that is done in many towns, cities and shires across Australia in the name of Sister Cities. It is more important than ever that this work is not lost and that the enthusiasm and commitment of so many volunteers is acknowledged.

2020 Annual Forum and AGM

The City of Darwin – ~~13 and 14 August, 2020~~

SCA would like to thank the City of Darwin and recognise their preliminary work with SCA in the initial planning for a Forum together but the current situation meant that they had to cancel the event.

The SCA Executive will be working on the next steps to see what the logistical options are for the

possibility of a Forum in 2020, and more importantly on holding the AGM for this year. As soon as there is information available to share we will be in contact with you to give, hopefully, plenty of notice to our committed members and friends.

2020 Sister Cities New Zealand Conference:

****UPDATE - CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID19 CRISIS.****

On behalf of the Board of Sister Cities New Zealand it is with regret that they advise that the SCNZ Board has decided to cancel this year's Conference. The Board made this decision as they believe it is in the best interests of their Conference participants given the current circumstances and the wide reaching impact they have had.

Look forward to hearing about plans for a special 40th anniversary conference to be held in 2021. SCNZ will no doubt make an announcement as soon as they are able, and we will be sharing that news, but it should be an event well worth making an effort to attend.

Sister Cities New Zealand Newsletter



Our friends at SCNZ produce a newsletter that is issued every two months. The April 2020 edition can be accessed here... [NEWSLETTER LINK](#).

This issues includes items on the following:

- Update from the SCNZ Board
- Sister Cities Conference 2020
- Life as a Backpacker in a Pandemic
- Self-isolation in small-town Hungary

SCA's NEW Facebook Page



SCA has had a web presence on Facebook for a while now. The original Facebook Page had been left as the current committee had been unable to access it for updating. Well, now we can and we have updated it to allow us all to share our stories and articles on all things sister city related.

The Facebook Group will still remain as this is where we are able to share files, such as our quarterly newsletter, online – we can't do this on the Facebook Page. Please **FOLLOW** us, **LIKE** us, **SHARE** us and also we'd love to see your contributions.

Mike Jakins
National Secretary

SCA Affiliation Directory and Links Update



2020 DIRECTORY OF AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITY AND FRIENDSHIP CITY AFFILIATIONS

UPDATED: 24/9/2019 with data supplied by CLAIR for all Australia-Japan relationships
10/1/2020 with data supplied from survey to all Local Govt. Authorities

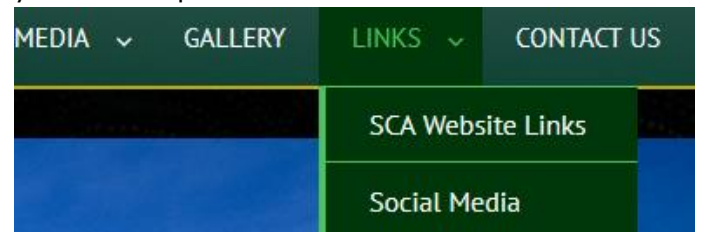
DISCLAIMER: Sister Cities Australia does not accept any liability or responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this directory. The directory has been faithfully compiled from the data provided, some of which has been substantiated however much of it has not. Persons or organisations using the data contained within the directory should follow-up with their own research to verify the accuracy of that data.

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

Have you checked out the Affiliation Directory? Is there information missing? Is there incorrect data? This Directory is the definitive document on Australian Sister City and Friendship City links and

your help is needed to ensure that it remains as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

Click [HERE](#) if you would like to download the latest version of the Affiliation Directory. Please send me an email if you find any errors or omissions – thank you in anticipation.



Does your Sister City Association or Committee have a webpage?

Do you have a Facebook Page?

Do you have a presence on Social Media?

Would you like to share those links with SCA members and friends?

In 2020 I am looking to do a review and update to the SCA Website and part of this will be to include a Links page where we can all contribute to growing a Sister City Communities Contacts List. If you would like your website, Facebook page, LinkedIn page, Instagram account, or other social media pages added to the list please let me know by clicking on the link below. Thank you for your help and support with this SCA initiative, which I hope will be a useful resource for all.

Click [HERE](#) to send your link details to SCA.

Mike Jakins,
National Secretary

LOOKING FOR, OR TO BECOME, A SISTER CITY?

Check out the SCA website where there is a list of cities actively looking for affiliations. There are cities in China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, USA and Ghana 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: 0491 118 779

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

Vice President - Christina Despoteris

Mobile: 0426 682 682

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

National Treasurer – Gordon Allen

Mobile: 0412 278 646

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

National 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 – Ben Stennett

Mobile: 0415 931 761

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

Full contact details for any of the above are available on the SCA website on the Administration page.

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 Newsletter Options and Contributions

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[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.