

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



in light of the recent tragic event in Christchurch I was once again left to wonder why there are still those in our community who question the work and motives of those of us involved in sister City activities. Personally if this does not place more emphasis on the need for greater understanding and acceptance of all peoples from all walks of life I don't know what will. The Sister Cities movement

worldwide encapsulates all that is good in mankind working together for a common goal. Peace among all men. Surely this should be what all of us desire and strive for, especially those of us who have ever been involved in any conflict anywhere in this beautiful World of ours.

Recently on an ABC interview I was asked, for the umpteenth time, what are Sister Cities? My answer was they are an arrangement between two like-minded communities to work together for the greater benefit of both. Whether it be the smallest exchange of ideas between two schools or the placement of a multi-million dollar business it will always be that same joint contribution that cements friendships together.

In closing this message I wish to raise the issue of the harm to International relations that has sometimes been caused by amalgamations. There have been several longstanding and successful links that have been lost because of these changes and it is unfortunate that the powers that be have not worked in the best interests of their wider community to ensure this has not been the case.

At our next AGM to be held in September there will be several vacancies on the National Executive. Should you have an interest in becoming part of this wonderful organization, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours in Sister Cities

Bill

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR!

Changes to our Distribution Frequency.

The SCA Newsletter has moved 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? That all depends on you, our readers, sending in those interesting stories that you'd like to share with us.

It also means that you have a little more time to get those 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

SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM NSW

Blacktown aids Liverpool Plains in a time of need



The sign at the Christmas on the Plains event said it all – “Welcome Blacktown and thank you for your support”

Generosity of Blacktown City community shines through once again – Thank You.

On behalf of the Liverpool Plains Shire community, LPSC Mayor, Councillor Andrew Hope, is thanking the people of Blacktown City, their Council, the Lady Mayoress’ Christmas appeal, Kids Far West, Mt Druitt Seniors, The Waratah Slimmers of Lalor Park and the Greater Blacktown Business Chamber for the generosity they showed at Christmas. He said, together they provided thousands of dollars’ worth of presents for Shire children – books, hampers and donations. “These were distributed at the LP Business Chamber’s Christmas on the Plains event as well as to other areas in the Shire with help from Werris Creek CWA getting it to smaller communities. After the tough times many faced as the drought bit harder these wonderful gestures were a great boost to morale,” he continued.

“The response and support from people all over Australia with drought assistance has been extraordinary but none more so than the people of

our Sister City, Blacktown City. On top of their effort at Christmas they have been assisting in many ways including providing a water tanker, expertise to prepare the plans for the Quirindi Library Precinct redevelopment, the cultural experience of Hangi in the Country and in many other ways,” he said.

“Many firm friendships have been forged through this relationship and the LP community is grateful for the support offered and bonds forged. Thank you, Blacktown,” he continued.

“It takes a lot of organisation to undertake an appeal such as the one Blacktown did to assist our people and lift our spirits at Christmas. Along with the President of Liverpool Plains Business Chamber we acknowledge, with special thanks, BCC Mayor Stephen Bali, his wife Anne who drives the annual Christmas gift collection initiative, CEO Greater Blacktown Business Chamber Trevor Oldfield, President Mount Druitt Seniors Geoff Owen and BCC Events Coordinator and Sister City Project Manager Greg McCallum,” Councillor Hope concluded.

SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM WA

Welcome Reception for the Ako Children's Choir

Commencing their twelfth visit in 22 years to their Sister City, Rockingham, the Ako Children's Choir gave a splendid performance at the Welcome Reception held in their honour on March 25 at the Council Reception Room. The 18 strong choir were accompanied by their leader, an accomplished keyboard player, some parents, and the Ako Choir Director on the trip from Japan to Australia.

The choir is made up entirely of school age children and during the introductions two of the members were highlighted as this trip was to include their last performances as they graduate year 12 (equivalent) soon. Many of the children have made the visit 'down under' on multiple occasions and the Choir Director stated that the opportunities made

the children better citizens and more aware of the world outside.



After the formal introductions and welcome from Rockingham Deputy Mayor, Cllr Deb Hamlin, it was time for the Choir to do what they do best – sing for the audience. You would not have believed that they had stepped off the plane from Osaka just five hours before. Resplendent in colourful kimono, they sang a variety of Japanese and Australian songs to the delight of those fortunate to be in attendance.

The choir gave a public performance on Thursday evening March 28, in the Rockingham Centre shopping centre. They also had a packed itinerary including visits to some of the local schools as well as enjoying the local area's sights.

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 2019 SCA AGM AND FORUM

Early Notice - To Be Held in Perth, WA, on September 20th

A working group is currently exploring options to hold a Forum and the AGM in Perth, in the absence of a city nominating to hold the Annual Conference. Planning is in the early stages, but we are looking at producing an exciting and interesting event.

**LOCK THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR –
SEPTEMBER 19 to 21, 2019!**

Although the Forum is being hosted in Perth it will be for all our members, and prospective members, to come and join in the interactive sessions, do some all-important networking and enjoy the friendly and social atmosphere. If you are coming

from interstate or overseas why not stay a few extra days as see what The West has to offer!

As Bill mentioned in his introductory words to this newsletter, there will be vacancies on the Executive so we encourage you to think hard about taking that next step and being involved at a higher level, and make a difference to more than just your own community.

More details will be made available as they are confirmed so keep an eye on your email Inbox over the coming couple of months!

2019 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

WELCOME TO THE SCA NATIONAL AWARDS - 2019.

Comprehensive notes detailing the streamlined process, Important Dates, Information and Category Criteria are detailed in the 2019 SCA Awards Handbook that has been emailed to each member city in early March.

Important Dates are:

- **Eligibility Period:**
1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019
- **Notice of Intention to Enter (page 5 of the Handbook):**
Friday 10 May 2019
- **Date submissions must reach judges:**
Friday 2 August 2019
- **2019 SCA National conference:**
Venue and date to be confirmed.

Entering an award will be accomplished by completing an electronic MS Word template for each of the 5 award categories. The templates have full instructions included and will be sent out based on your Notice of Intention to Enter information.

Categories are:

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



Awards recognise "outstanding achievement"

Acknowledge those who put so much time into celebrating all the benefits a Sister City brings to your community and enter a successful event into the 2019 SCA National Awards.

Jan Teasdale



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

March 2019

Coordinator SCA National Awards

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

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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.