

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello all friends and acquaintances of SCA. What a tumultuous period of World affairs since I last addressed you. I guess now, more than ever before, we see the Nations from all corners of the World come together to work for the common good of all mankind. It is unfortunate that it takes a crisis such as this for us to realize that whatever our differences in race, religion, wealth or politics, we are all subject to the same fate when an event, such as this virus, is bigger than all of us. It is during these times that the spirit of Sister City relationships is shown at its best and I know there will be many wonderful stories of assistance and support that will be generated by our members. Of course there may be changes required in long held plans and we must be flexible and accepting of these changes to ensure we remain steadfast and true to our long term goals and ideals.

At this stage we are busy working with the Darwin City Council in ascertaining whether we may proceed in planning for our Forum and AGM up there in the far North. Perhaps we may have to look at alternate dates sometime later in the year however we shall keep everyone fully informed as we work toward a solution.

Whilst speaking of upcoming events I may make mention of the SCNZ Conference in Ashburton, located in the rural heart of Canterbury, just one hour South of Christchurch. There is a special Member rate for registration and should you wish to

attend please contact Secretary Mike for further details. This year the Theme is :- Growing Cultural Diversity in Regions.

There are currently papers being prepared by two separate Universities on Sister City activities both in China and Japan. You may receive an invitation for input with either and I would urge you to provide the information requested so that the end result will be both informative and up to date.

Secretary Mike has been very pro-active in updating our records however should you have information that you believe may help in updating our current register I would urge you to forward it to us to ensure it is up to date.

There are some great articles to read in this issue so please pass it on to any and all that may have an interest. I would also, once again, stress that SCA is your organization so why not be part of it and become a fully paid up Member to show your individual, or Corporate, support to SCA. Fees are still only \$50 for Individuals and \$500 for Corporate.

In closing I would like to wish you all a safe journey through this turbulent time and let us all hope and pray that a solution is soon found and implemented for the benefit of all.

Best wishes,
Bill Wilson, President
Sister Cities Australia

What's new in this bumper issue?

- ✓ [Perth-Kagoshima, 45 years young](#)
- ✓ [Belmont & Adachi celebrate 35 years](#)
- ✓ [Frankston & Susono celebrations](#)
- ✓ [2020 Annual Forum and AGM](#)
- ✓ [SCNZ Conference Information - UPDATE](#)
- ✓ [SCNZ Newsletter](#)
- ✓ [SCA's REVIVED Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ [SCA Affiliation Directory Update](#)
- ✓ [Sharing Request to All](#)

2020 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

Entries are now open. Entries close on Friday 26 June 2020

Awards for Excellence

One of the many benefits of being a Member of Sister Cities Australia is that you can participate in the Annual National Awards Program.

The 2020 SCA National Awards are an annual celebration of the best of Australia's sister city achievements. The Awards highlight innovative and resourceful solutions implemented by local governments to make a difference to their local communities as well as their international sister city.

These Awards aim:

1. To encourage and reward excellence and innovation in sister city activities;
2. To develop a permanent information resource for members; and
3. To provide a forum for information exchange.

This year we have made it easier for you to nominate. There is no call for "Expressions of Interest"

Nominations are open NOW and they CLOSE on Friday 26 June 2020.

Members are encouraged to enter as many eligible project submissions as they wish, noting that projects must meet the requirements of the category fact sheets and submission guidelines, (See Awards Handbook). There are five Award categories that cover a range of projects.

1. Community Involvement - the way you have encouraged the widest possible community involvement during your celebrations;
2. Youth Project - your favourite youth program;
3. New Affiliation - your initiative to create a new sister city relationship;

4. Trade and Tourism Project - your most successful trade or tourism project;
5. Overall Program - your overall program of events.

Projects must have been delivered from 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Entries can be projects of any size that are delivering positive community outcomes.

Administered by Sister Cities Australia, the Awards, promote the significant role of sister city relationships. SCA aims to provide a forum for cultural, economic, and educational interchange between communities and encourage friendship, co-operation and understanding to improve peaceful co-existence worldwide. A key focus of the 2020 SCA National Awards is to encourage a greater number of local governments, to tell us about projects they are delivering which contribute to the above objectives.

For further information about the way in which the Awards are administered, please read the Handbook.

The Awards will be presented at our Annual Forum, which this year, will be in Darwin on 13 & 14 August 2020, virus permitting.

I look forward to hearing from you all and seeing the wonderful projects which you have been working on. It doesn't matter how small or large your project is we want to see as many nominations as possible. You can enter your project in multiple categories, as long as it meets the required guidelines.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0426 682 682.

Christina Despoteris
Vice President Sister Cities Australia
and, Coordinator SCA National Awards

Perth – Kagoshima: Celebrating 45 Years



Figure 1 - Kagoshima delegation at Council House

The City of Perth recently welcomed a delegation of government, academic and business representatives from Kagoshima, Japan to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship.

Led by Hiroyuki Mori, Mayor of Kagoshima, the two-day visit commenced with the Commissioners of the City of Perth welcoming the delegation to Council House followed by visits to iconic developments that have opened since Mayor Mori's last visit to Perth in 2014. On his fourth visit to Perth, Mayor Mori and the delegation walked on the

field of Optus Stadium, enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of the new Western Australian Museum, attended a business breakfast facilitated by Asialink Business and tasted udon noodle varieties from a Western Australian business who are the benchmark worldwide in the Japanese udon



Figure 2 - Delegation visiting the iconic Optus Stadium noodle market.

Initiated originally from Perth and Kagoshima's shared latitude of 32 degrees, this unique connection was formalised due to the shared cultural, education and government-to-government opportunities. Over the past 45 years, the City of Perth and Kagoshima City have hosted student exchanges which have led to Memorandums of Understanding between key universities in the two cities, supported the creation of sister school relationships, welcomed business delegations and planted native Australian trees at Kagoshima Park to commemorate the growth of the relationship.

Located on the Swan River, within Burswood Park, Kagoshima Park is a living symbol of the Perth-Kagoshima relationship. To commemorate the 45th anniversary, Chair Commissioner Andrew Hammond and Mayor Mori planted a Western Australian native tree alongside a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion. Members of the Perth community who have been involved in this relationship over the years celebrated at both the

Figure 3 – Civic Welcome Reception at the Perth Town Hall



tree planting ceremony and the Civic Welcome Reception the evening prior. Over 200 people joined to commemorate the anniversary of our relationship and share fond memories at a Civic Welcome Reception hosted at the Perth Town Hall. The Perth Town Hall was decorated with flags, a cherry blossom display and a beautiful feature at the entrance from the Perth Kimono Club, including a wedding kimono.

During the visit, the City of Perth and Kagoshima City were honoured to receive a certificate from Sister Cities Australia in recognition of this anniversary. Along with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation awarded at the 40th anniversary in 2014, this certificate a striking reminder of the value of the strong business, education and people-to-people links between our two communities.

Figure 4 - Chair Commissioner Hammond and Mayor Mori receive congratulatory certificates from SCA Secretary, Mike Jakins



Through the Sister City link, the City of Perth has also developed a strong affinity with the Minami iBS Academy. College President, Mr. Toru Minami has been visiting Perth for over thirty years and it is estimated almost 700 Kagoshima students have visited our Perth via this program. Each year we are honoured to welcome Mr. Minami and the Kagoshima students to Council House during their Perth Study Tour. We are fortunate to have many graduates from the Minami iBS Academy now living in Perth.

Another key activity is the Perth University Program for Immersive Language Studies (PUPILS) which provides five Kagoshima University students with the opportunity to understand a five-week language course in Perth. Whilst in Perth, the students visited key destinations including Kings Park and Rottnest Island, were welcomed to Council House by the Commissioners of the City of Perth and participated in Japanese language classes at Mater Dei College, who has a sister school relationship with Gyokuryu High School. The

City of Perth looks forward to building this initiative and other activities that will continue to strengthen our relationship with Kagoshima City through further collaboration in the future.

Erin Sanders
International Engagement Officer
City of Perth, WA

Belmont-Adachi-ku 35th anniversary delegation and signing the re-affirmation agreement between the two cities.

The City of Belmont has built a 35 year relationship with its Sister City, Adachi-ku in Tokyo, Japan, having entered into a Sister City relationship in October of 1984. The mainstay of this relationship since its inception has been the annual Student Exchange Program, which promotes cultural, educational and economic exchanges between the two cities. Each year City of Belmont students travel to Adachi in early January to experience Japanese culture and customs. Similarly, students from Adachi-ku visit the City of Belmont in July-August where they explore the City and the wider Perth region, participating in cultural tours, school visits and sightseeing. Every five years a Citizens Delegation replaces the student delegation with the purpose of re-affirming the agreement between the two cities. On the 15 January 2020, selected delegates from Belmont flew to Adachi with the purpose of celebrating the long-standing relationship and re-affirming each city's commitment to work harmoniously together.



Figure 2 - Successfully executing the re-affirmation agreement

delegates represented the City of Belmont and were made up of Belmont Sister City Association Executive/ past Executive members, Belmont business representatives, members of the City's Focus or Advisory Groups, Elected Members/ staff and individuals who had made a strong contribution to the program over its life-span, some of whom were previously awarded Honorary Citizens of Adachi.

Some of the highlights included executing the re-affirmation agreement, continuous promotion of good-will and the City of Belmont as the 'City of Opportunity'. Gaining a greater understanding of local government and business opportunities in Adachi and discussing future opportunities that may be established in Belmont. The delegation also visited the Naskasimane Primary School so as to appreciate the nutrition programs available for students in Adachi. Places of interest visited during the delegation included the streets of Senjyu (local Adachi streets), Tokyo Skytree, Hanahata Otori Shrine, the Adachi Local Government Building, Edo-Tokyo museum, Nisi Arai temple and visiting a local mochi producer as well as a day trip to the captivating Mount Fuji. Adachi have created 'Belmont Park' to commemorate the relationship between the cities. A succession of gifts is located at the museum in Adachi Park, representing many exchanges, both student and citizen. To establish a large park in such a busy and densely populated city is testament to the value that the Adachi



Figure 1 - Traditional Japanese lunch

The 35th year Citizens Delegation successfully re-affirmed the City of Belmont's commitment with Adachi-ku, with a focus on working collaboratively together to achieve positive youth, educational, cultural and business opportunities. These opportunities activate economic, social, educational and cultural outcomes. The 2020 Sister City Citizens delegation ran from Wednesday 15 January - Friday 24 January 2020. A total of 22



Figure 3 - The Sumida River from Tokyo skytree.

government place on the agreement between the cities.

Strong collaborating with Adachi staff in the lead up to the delegation paid off. The delegation ran smoothly with activities meeting, and often surpassing the expectations of delegates and staff. It is clear that the Adachi staff, Mayor Kondo and the Adachi City International Exchange Committee wish for the strong relationship between the two Sister Cities to long continue. All delegates, City of Belmont Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer represented the City to a high standard.

Joel Warner
Coordinator Community Projects
City of Belmont, WA

Frankston and Susono Celebrate 38 years as Sister Cities

On Sunday 23 February members of the Executive Committee and Friends of the Frankston Susono Friendship Association gathered in the Japanese Garden at Frankston High School to celebrate the 38th anniversary of their sister city relationship with Susono. As guests arrived at the function, they were entertained by the delightful Frankston High Flute Choir led by teacher Kim Starr, who was a student member of the FHS Big Band that played at the World Expo in Nagoya in 2005.

attended as a guest of Committee member Sam Warrington.

The formal part of the afternoon began with FSFA Chairperson Julie D'Arcy welcoming everyone to the function and thanking the large number of dedicated volunteers who have worked over many years to build and maintain the strong connection we have with our sister city Susono.

Frankston Mayor Sandra Mayer spoke about FSFA's role in managing the sister city relationship on behalf of the Frankston City Council. She also thanked the many hard-working volunteers who have delivered such a vibrant and successful range of activities focusing on Japanese language and authentic cultural experiences including food, music, demonstrations and activities.



Figure 1 - Frankston High Flute Choir

FSFA Chairperson Julie D'Arcy and members of the current Executive Committee mingled with guests, including Frankston Mayor Sandra Mayer, Councillor Colin Hampton and his wife Nancye, former FSFA Chairpersons, FSFA Life Members, former Executive Committee members and friends and supporters of FSFA. We were also joined by Yuho Katsumata who was visiting from Susono and



Figure 2 - Official Speeches

The audience then heard from former councillor, mayor, inaugural FSFA Chairperson and Life Member Noel Ferguson who outlined the genesis of the sister city relationship. Noel spoke of the early

delegation visits and the great challenges presented by language differences, communication between the respective city councils and citizen groups, as well as organising and managing the student exchange program that was such an important part of the relationship.

Recently retired FSFA Chairperson Peter Patterson described how enduring interpersonal relationships



Figure 3 - Peter Patterson, Margaret Patterson, Mayor Sandra Mayer, Bev Hannan, Julie D'Arcy

were the foundation for the strong bonds of friendship that exist between our two cities. There were also stories of the many delegation visits to and from Susono, the Japanese and Australia Fairs held during these visits and the diverse cultural experiences afforded members of every delegation.

The final speaker was our current Chairperson Julie D'Arcy who said what an honour it was to assume the role from Peter, just as it was to be selected as one of the first exchange students to visit Susono in 1983. Julie also outlined FSFA's future plans which include continuing to work to ensure our relationship with SOFA remains strong and the Frankston community are involved as much as possible.



Figure 4 - Group shot of guests

Our Chairperson concluded by expressing her appreciation to a number of people including Principal John Albiston and Senior Campus Principal Helen Wilson for kindly hosting the party and providing the food and refreshments; Kim Starr and the Frankston High Flute Choir for the lovely entertainment; Vice-Chairperson Simon Hast and the team who help him maintain the Japanese Garden; and members of the FSFA Executive Committee who contribute with passion and dedication to allow the sister city relationship to flourish!

After the speeches concluded it was time for the presentation of Life Memberships to three very deserving and special people. Life Membership was presented to long-serving Chairperson Peter Patterson who has worked tirelessly to strengthen the sister city relationship by demonstrating passion, enthusiasm, creativity and leadership; the warm, supportive and welcoming ultimate hostess Margaret Patterson; and student host and



Figure 5 - New and existing Life Members Mayor Mayer and FSFA Chairperson Julie D'Arcy

counsellor, the Committee's longest serving member and current Treasurer Bev Hannan.

The formal part of the afternoon concluded with photos of Life Members and a group shot, followed by the opportunity to congratulate our new Life Members and catch up with other guests whilst viewing the slide show on the large screen highlighting the 38 years of the sister city relationship. It was fantastic to see so many long-time supporters of FSFA in attendance and thank you to those on the Executive Committee who were able to assist on the day to make it such a successful celebration.

Simon Hast
FSFA Vice-Chairperson
hasts@tpg.com.au

2020 Annual Forum and AGM

The City of Darwin – 13 and 14 August, 2020



The beautiful Northern territory capital of Darwin has graciously offered to host the 2020 SCA Annual Forum and AGM. The evening of August 13 will be the welcome reception which will include the announcement of the winners in the 2020 SCA Annual National Awards. It will be a gala evening with entertainment from some of Darwin's sister cities on display. If your city has entered the Awards be sure to make sure you attend the dinner, just in case... and be sure to leave a little room in your luggage to possibly take home some impressive trophies.

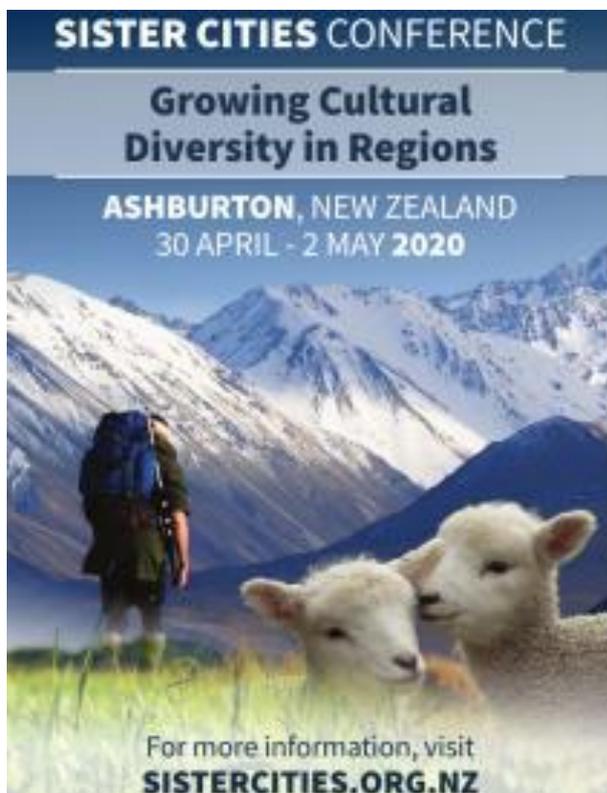
The content and the structure of the Forum itself is still under discussion but be assured that it will be an engaging and thoughtful program that will have something in it for everyone, no matter where you are on your sister city journey. Further details will be provided by email as they are finalised along with details of costs, accommodation, travel and sight-seeing opportunities.

The Executive of SCA and the City of Darwin are looking forward to welcoming you and encouraging you to participate, share and build your networks.

2020 Sister Cities New Zealand Conference:

"Growing Cultural Diversity in Regions"

****UPDATE - DUE TO THE COVID19 CRISIS THIS EVENT IS NOW POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST.****



On behalf of our friends in New Zealand I'd like to give you some early details of their Annual

Conference for 2020. This can also be found on their website (click here SCNZ_Conference_2020) where additional information will be provided once it becomes available. There are links on the page to the online registration, the program and speakers, and the registration rates and accommodation information.

"Ashburton District Mayor Donna Favel is pleased to announce that Ashburton will host the annual Sister Cities Conference next year.

She made the announcement at this year's conference in Palmerston North, where more than 140 delegates and dignitaries from New Zealand, United States, Japan, China and Australia gathered for the three-day event.

"Hosting the 2020 conference will be an extraordinary opportunity to showcase our district, build even stronger international relationships and further our cultural, educational, youth, sports, professional and technical projects."

The proposed theme for the 2020 conference is, 'Growing cultural diversity in regions'. The theme will focus on the unique opportunities that makes regions prime destinations for employment, tourism and lifestyle that will further economic growth.

"The Sister Cities Conference will be an opportunity to focus on regional capabilities, offerings and needs, while recognising our respective locations on the international stage with our partnering Sister and Friendship Cities," Mayor Favel continued.

Ashburton has three Sister City relationships and two Friendship City relationships. These are with

Minamiuonuma, Niigata, Japan; Pulaski, Virginia, United States; and Ashburton, Devon, United Kingdom; while the Friendship Cities are with Puyang, Henan, China; and Xianyang, Shaanxi, China.

There are also two expressions of interest for a Sister City relationship with Handan, China and a Friendship City with Zaohaung, China."

Sister Cities New Zealand Newsletter



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

This issues includes items on the following:

- Update from the SCNZBoard
- Sister Cities Conference 2020
- New Member Tararua District Council
- Canterbury and Central Region Sister Cities Forums
- Tendo & Marlborough - 30 Years
- Mishima Group Visits New Plymouth
- Sister Cities on the Seven Seas
- Japanese Kyudo in NZ
- Welcome Home, JET Participants

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 Update

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LINKS?



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

March 2020

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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.

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Please forward this newsletter on to interested colleagues and friends, thank you.