

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello again to all our Sister City friends, wherever you may be. Since my last report it seems that although there is definitely some semblance of hope that we are on the way to a solution with COVID19, small outbreaks in both Queensland and NSW in the last few days have certainly gone to prove we must not become complacent. Our counterparts from all around the world are struggling with the enormity of the problem and it will be quite some time before we may once again be safe to travel and share.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find some great stories from several of our members and I urge you to not only read them yourself but to hand them on to others who may enjoy their content. It is wonderful that so many communities have, in one form or another, continued on with activities in their Sister City programs. It certainly brings out the best in humans when faced with adversity.

At our recent Zoom meeting your Executive decided that our AGM would be conducted via Zoom again this year, commencing at 3pm EST on 29th September 2021. A link will be provided and your participation is invited. This is an election year and

all positions will be declared vacant. Should you have an interest in nomination please contact one of the Executive who will be happy to assist.

SCNZ President Mrs Hiromi Morris has sent details of their upcoming Conference and further details of this you will find later in this issue. Unfortunately no attendees will be permitted into NZ.

Your Executive have also decided to investigate updating all our current communication. Facebook, Email, Newsletter and Website are all being looked at with a view to make everything more seamless and user friendly. There will be more to report on this from our next meeting.

Early warning to you all for a Zoom Forum being hosted out of Victoria in June which Christina is right in the middle of organizing. Further details as they come to hand.

We are patiently waiting for a response to our request to Minister Payne for answers to a log of questions we have submitted, on behalf of our Members, to clarify the Foreign Relations Bill that was passed at the end of last year. We shall update you as we receive information.

Please stay safe and hopefully the next report I submit to you will be in a healthier time.

Yours in Sister Cities,
Bill Wilson, President

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2021 AGM PREVIEW

The 2021 AGM, September 29, by Zoom.

The Sister Cities Australia Annual General Meeting (AGM) for this year will be held via a Zoom

videoconference on Wednesday 29 September, 2021

As 2021 is an election year all positions on the Executive Committee will be open and available for members to nominate themselves, or others, for.

Further details of the AGM will be provided as they become available, including all the paperwork for the elections.

We hope you will be able to join us and help shape the future of SCA as we move forward.

Mike Jakins

SCA National Secretary

mike.jakins@sistercitiesaustralia.com

CITY OF DARWIN SISTER CITIES

Parallel Hearts Launched - Special Article

City of Darwin's Parallel Hearts project, a Sister Cities audio collaboration between the Indigenous people of Anchorage and Darwin, will be launched by Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis and Chairman of Larrakia Nation Elder at Larrakia Nation in The Mall at 10am Saturday 14 November.

The project captures the voices of First Nations people from Darwin and Anchorage - the Larrakia and Dena'ina people - and is designed to increase understanding, knowledge and appreciation of Indigenous culture.

"I'm delighted to be launching this very special project during NAIDOC week," said Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis.

"The Larrakia people are the traditional owners of the land on which City of Darwin operates and we believe this project will help deepen the understanding and respect between our community and Indigenous people."

Seven podcasts have captured the themes of maintaining culture, this is our land, caring for country, seasons, history and Sister Cities.

"Projects like this help create a more connected community and build pride in our cultural identity," concluded Lord Mayor Vatskalis.

ABC radio Darwin will broadcast each episode 3 times a week over a 6 week period, commencing Sunday 15 November.

City of Darwin will have each episode available through their website at the beginning of each week for 6 weeks, commencing Tuesday 17 November.

City of Darwin commissioned local audio maker Gaia Osborne to undertake the Parallel Hearts project.

City of Darwin has 6 Sister Cities around the world, including Anchorage, Ambon, Dili, Haikou, Kalymnos and Milikapiti. Through the Sister Cities program City of Darwin seeks to promote education, arts and cultural exchanges with the aim of growing cross cultural understanding.

For any further enquiries, please contact the Darwin Sister Cities team on international@darwin.nt.gov.au

Parallel Hearts: A Series of ABC Broadcasts

The ABC's Sunday radio program ran a series of broadcasts with first nations people from both Darwin and Anchorage sharing their thoughts and hopes on a number of important topics. The six episodes are listed below, with links to be able to listen to the audio from the ABC.

Parallel Hearts: Introduction 6min 58sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

Parallel Hearts: Maintaining Culture 16min 6sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

Parallel Hearts: This is Our Land 10min 47sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

Parallel Hearts: Caring for Country 10min 38sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

Parallel Hearts: Seasons 13min 7sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

Parallel Hearts: History 14min 19sec

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen

CITY OF CAIRNS – A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

The Year of the OX celebrated with Zhanjiang



Cairns' Chinese Sister City Zhanjiang contributed to making Chinese New Year a vibrant and enjoyable COVID safe event, celebrating Chinese New Year Of The Ox 2021.

Traditionally, the Cairns community embraces the spirit of Chinese New Year with a colourful street festival on Grafton St (formerly Sachs St on the site of the old Chinatown). Celebrations go for two weeks highlighted with various events, including lion performances at restaurants and businesses around town, Chinese Banquets, yum cha and culminating with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day.



Due to the pandemic and COVID safe restrictions, Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc (CADCAI) and other organisations have had to adapt to the challenges in the past and present year. While planning for the 2021 Chinese New Year Festival, CADCAI with the support of Cairns Sister Cities and Cairns Regional Council invited our Sister City of Zhanjiang in Guangdong Province in The Peoples Republic of China to participate and support.



Thanks to the collaborative efforts by the Zhanjiang Foreign Affairs office, the Zhanjiang community generously responded by sharing ONLINE content of special performances from the:

- Zhanjiang Shaolin Kung Fu School,
- Lion dances,
- Cultural performances, and
- Special guest performances from the Suzhou Star Dance Group.

on the 13 February and showcased on the big screen at the Pier Shopping Centre. Live performances from our very own lion and dragon teams, Molihua dancers, Tai chi displays and beautiful singers added to the loud and colourful COVID safe celebrations at the festival.

For any further information, please contact Sim Hayward, Ambassador, Cairns Sister Cities
sim.hayward@sistercitiesaustralia.com

CITY OF CAIRNS – A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

The Ambassador for Cairns Sister Cities Honoured



Sim (centre) supporting Sister Cities!

Ms Sim Hayward, Ambassador for Cairns Sister Cities, was awarded the 'Certificate of Commendation' by the Consul General of Japan, in

recognition of her distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia. The award was presented during the celebration of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan's birthday on 5 Mar at the Cairns Hilton.

Minami (formerly known as Hiwasa), is the oldest Japanese sister city signed in 1969 and celebrated 50 years in 2019 with a 35 member delegation of citizens and Joururi performers led by Mayor Kageji to participate at the Cairns Festival. A second Japanese sister city, Oyama was signed in 2006 and will celebrate 15 years this year.

Sim's involvement with Sister Cities dates back to 1986, when businesses in Cairns were invited to assist in the planning and hosting of the 1988 Sister Cities International Forum. It was to be the first time that the SCI Forum ever left America.

CITY OF FRANKSTON SISTER CITIES PROGRAM Relationship Flourishes Despite COVID

The Frankston Susono Friendship Association (FSFA) has endeavoured to remain active during the COVID pandemic despite the restrictions imposed over the past 12 months. Like most sister city organisations, we regrettably had to cancel many of our events including our annual Japanese Speech Contest, Hanami Party, Japanese Festival and Susono Delegation visit planned for November 2020.

The key to maintaining an active association and sister city relationship has been to adapt and use the available resources and technology. Our monthly FSFA committee meetings have been held via Zoom which presented early challenges, but members adapted quickly to this new format. The advantages have included not having to travel, meeting in the comfort of our own home and increased meeting efficiency!

FSFA has also held several Zoom meetings with our Susono Overseas Friendship Association (SOFA)



friends. Whilst not as satisfying as face-to-face contact and delegation visits, it's ironic that we have had increased communication and meetings between our Associations during the pandemic! We hope this will become a regular feature with brief meetings focusing on news and information exchanged every couple of months.

Using social media has been an important element in remaining active during these challenging times



with FSFA Vice-Chairperson Simon Hast sharing a post on [FSFA's Facebook](#) page EVERY day during Lockdown 2.0. Simon shared posts from a number of Japanese themed Facebook sites including [Visit Japan International](#), [Visit Japan AU](#), [Our Japan](#) and [Nature of Japan](#). The stunning images available through these pages makes one look forward to overseas travel, hopefully sometime very soon!

lasting monument to our sister city relationship with Susono in Shizuoka. The sister city relationship formally commenced on 22nd February 1982 and the Japanese Garden was opened in 1997 – the weekend of the 15th anniversary.

The garden has become the setting for many FSFA events including our Japanese Festival which is held every 2 years, our annual Hanami Party in late October, Japanese Network and Past Exchange



Student gatherings, and viewings by Japanese visitors and delegations.

The global pandemic and associated restrictions and travel bans have presented every sister city organisation with challenges over the past year. Video conferencing technology, virtual Festivals and events, the use of social media as a promotional tool and many other innovative ideas have allowed us to adapt and work to maintain the strong bonds of friendship we share with our sister cities. FSFA wishes you all the very best for the future!

For any further enquiries, please contact Simon Hast, FSFA Vice-Chairperson on hasts@tpg.com.au

FSFA also publishes a monthly Bulletin which is distributed to its members via email following each monthly meeting. Every Bulletin includes a committee meeting report, a sumo wrestling update (editor Simon is *sumo otaku!*), a variety of Japanese themed resources and news items, plus FSFAves – a favourite Japanese recipe submitted by FSFA members.

Our Association also maintains the [FSFA website](#) which features information about the organisation, travel resources, and news updates, including the monthly Bulletin. It also features our Japanese Garden, which is located on Frankston High School's Senior Campus and was created as a

CITY OF BLACKTOWN

A Unique Sister City Project - Special Article

Sunshine grain harvester that helped set the basic wage restored to original glory at Quirindi

Volunteers at the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village have resurrected a 114-year old harvester that represents a revolution in Australia. Not only did the Sunshine Harvester forever change the agriculture industry, but it was at the heart of a test case that set the country's first minimum wage.

It is this link that made it valuable to Blacktown City Council, which commissioned the restoration work that further reinforced its Sister Cities relationship with Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

The restored harvester will be transported to Blacktown and located at the Workers Memorial Park in the Blacktown Showground precinct where the International Day of Mourning ceremony is held



*The iconic 1907 Sunshine Harvester, before restoration began.
(Supplied: Quirindi Men's Shed)*

on the 28th of April each year to acknowledge those who have lost loved ones to work-related incidents or illness.

The Sunshine Harvester, developed by industrialist Hugh McKay in 1885, stripped the heads off the wheat, threshed and winnowed the grain, then bagged it. The Harvester saved time, labour costs and also increased yields — grain farming would never be the same. But while the machine cut labour costs on farms, the Western Melbourne factory that built it employed almost 3,000 people at its peak and became embroiled in a court case over wages and conditions. The outcome became known as the "Harvester Judgement".



*A mower assembly line on the factory floor of Melbourne's Sunshine Harvester factory, which made agricultural machinery.
(Supplied: Museums Victoria)*

The court case in 1907 determined Australia's first minimum wage, with the Harvester decision absolutely pivotal in setting the standard, which basically said, if employers can't pay a decent wage then they don't deserve to be in business. This principle became a reference point for social policy, and tax policy, not just wages policy. The judgement came at a time when Australia was grappling with the ideals of free trade or protection for industry, with the Government at the time only able to get Labor party support for protection, if companies that got the benefit of tariff barriers paid a decent wage.

During the hearing, Justice Higgins heard evidence from a number of employee's wives as to the costs for supporting families and determined what was fair and reasonable for a man to support a family of five in frugal comfort. Justice Higgins determined that amount to be seven shillings per day or 42 shillings per week which equates to \$266 in today's terms.



The Mayor of Blacktown City Council, Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM (left) accepting the hand-over of the restored harvester from the Mayor of Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins OAM.

The Mayor of Blacktown City Council, Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM accepted the hand-over of the restored harvester from the Mayor of Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins OAM on Saturday, 6 March 2021 at the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village.

This fantastic and unique story reflects the true spirit and intent of a Sister Cities partnership that is now 16 years young.

SISTER CITIES NEW ZEALAND

2021 Annual Conference - Special Article



SISTER CITIES NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

SCNZ has been organising a special 40th anniversary conference to be held in Wellington on 15 & 16 April to celebrate SCNZ's establishment in 1981. Unfortunately, due to current travel restrictions SCNZ won't be able to invite overseas guests.

Here is a summary of the conference:

Theme: Celebrating 40 years of Global Connections and Diversity

Sister Cities and Sister Cities New Zealand: Sister cities were historically established to promote peace and understanding between the people of different countries.

SCNZ established in 1981, is a non-profit national organisation bringing together sister city associations and stakeholders across the country and is operated by volunteers. There are approximately 150 relationships with 20 countries and the Conference provides an opportunity for networking, sharing information and stories with participants throughout New Zealand and overseas.

Conference Attendees: NZ Mayors, Councillors, CEOs, Officials, Ambassadors/diplomatic corps, sister city volunteer community organisations, professional associations, youth/ethnic community representatives, educators and businesses

Topics:

- *Fostering diverse, globally-engaged communities.*
- *Value of international connections and the benefits of culturally-engaged communities.*
- *Sister city relationships and their importance in growing cultural diversity.*
- *What does it mean to have a strategic approach to sister cities.*

Local authorities take various approaches to managing and maintaining their SC relationships and international relations

priorities. Discussion covers their own city's strategic approach to this issue, including how sister cities are managed and maintained.

- *Investing in relationships and economic development*

How to use established SC relationships as a platform for economic development and how this can be enhanced through regional and national collaboration.

- *Youth engagement*

How young people – our future leaders – can be involved and engage in global connections and contribute to the community.

The SCNZ Conference will inform and encourage local leaders and decision-makers to put intercultural connectivity and ethnic relations higher on their agendas, especially in New Zealand's regions. Such topics can too often be deemed outside of local government's 'core business' especially during years of long-term plan deliberations where resourcing priorities are carefully balanced.

Embodying global citizenship is more important than ever as world events such as COVID-19 and local tragedies such as the Christchurch terrorist attack threaten to push us apart. And as this country becomes increasingly cosmopolitan (one in four New Zealanders are born overseas), learning about and respecting different cultures and traditions are priorities in order for us all to live and work together in harmony, and as one nation.

Special Conference: SCNZ Patron, Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy is hosting the Welcome Reception on 15 April at Government House.

Full details of the program can be found on their website at <https://sistercities.org.nz/conference-2021/>.

SCA's Presence on Facebook

The OFFICIAL SCA 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 OFFICIAL SCA Facebook Group

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?

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.

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