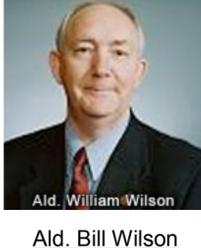


Sister Cities Australia (SCA) is a member's organisation which provides an umbrella of support for sister city affiliations. SCA also aims to provide a forum for cultural, economic and educational interchange between communities and to encourage friendship, co-operation and understanding to improve peaceful co-existence worldwide.



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### MESSAGE FROM BILL

Where have the last twelve months gone? It seems no time ago we were preparing for the 2012 year and yet here we are seeing Christmas stock already on many retailer's shelves.

Should you not have registered for the National Conference I strongly recommend you do so. Each year I am delighted to meet with so many like minded individuals from all walks of life who share a passion for furthering the work of international relations through a myriad of links and means. I can assure you that the program in Devonport will open up many of these for information and discussion and I invite you all to join with us for a great experience.

The Youth Conference will also have some fantastic programs offered and your community will be the richer for ensuring you are represented. We will be joined by overseas delegates from Japan, China, NZ and South Korea.

Other than the tremendous scope of session content, I give you all a guarantee that you will fall in love with the Tassie lifestyle and especially the magnificent food and beverages for which our island state has become World famous.

*Bill*

Sister Cities Australia  
Annual Conference  
11-14 November 2012  
Devonport, Tasmania



Growing Our Future: The Journey Together

### SISTER CITY CONFERENCE 2012

Congratulations to Sjaan Field, winner of the Early Bird Registration Prize who has received two nights' accommodation at Strahan Village, a cruise on the Gordon River and a journey on the West Coast Wilderness Railway kindly sponsored by Federal Hotels and Resorts.

All delegates are still in the running to receive a Bed, Breakfast and Dinner Package for one night staying at a world heritage destination - Cradle Mountain.  
(Drawn on 22 October)

This year's conference with the theme

### Growing Our Future: The Journey Together

is shaping up to be one with plenty of thought-provoking and inspiring speakers. We have been fortunate to secure

### Dr Peter Ellyard, Australia's most prominent futurist.

Peter will share his vision of the future that is prosperous, sustainable, harmonious, secure and just in the year 2050.

Delegates will have the opportunity to work with Peter to develop and implement visions and strategic actions with their sister cities program to become both resilient future-takers in, and purposeful future-makers in 21st century society.

### Other speakers include:

**Stephen Sykes**, Orange City Council with an interesting perspective on international partnerships.

**Aldermen Rob Soward**, Launceston City Council who will share his perspective on the practical and theoretical building blocks for successful sister cities relationships.

Broken Hill's General Manager, **Frank Zaknich**, will highlight the strength of domestic exchanges.

**Colin Jones**, Senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania will paint a different picture on Sister Cities, exploring what it means to be an Entrepreneurial City.

Key Tasmanian businesses will also be present, sharing their tips and tricks on building successful economic international partnerships.

SCA National Awards Winners for 2012 will be announced and trophies presented. 6 cities will be featured in presenting an overview of their activities submitted this year.

If this isn't enough to get your mind's stimulated there will also be plenty of opportunities for delegates to share their success, challenges and ideas for the future through both formal and informal networking and planning sessions.

Delegates will also get to experience a bit of the amazing State during the evening activities and savour high quality fresh Tassie produce.

For further information contact the Conference Convenor, **Carol Bryant**, Devonport City Council or [follow this link for conference details](#).

Sadly I advise of the resignation from the National Executive of former Randwick Councillor, John Procopiadis. John was unsuccessful at the recent NSW elections and has decided to take this step. His resignation has been accepted with regret however in doing so I thank him for his time on the Executive and for his passion for the sister city movement. I know our paths will cross again as John will be continuing to work within the Greek community.

Although these are tight times I am heartened by the membership renewals that have been targeted. We are certainly holding our own however I cannot stress enough the vital need for all our previous members to hold their memberships and to keep our organisation strong. Our long term aim is to set up a secretariat, possibly on a couple of days a week to commence with, however this will only ever come to fruition by all our sister city groups working together for a common cause.

The Executive have worked hard to achieve better returns and have held membership at a very affordable level for many years even whilst costs for everything else have escalated. Have you given any thought to inviting others to join or even taking the step to become an individual member yourself?

I am looking forward to sharing with you all in Devonport next month. May your God be with you and may your World be one of peace.

### SCA YOUTH CONFERENCE

Calling Australia's leading youth to descend on Devonport when The Youth Leadership Conference is held as part of the National Sister Cities Australia Conference.

The Youth Leadership Conference will be a must attend for aspiring leaders from across Australia where there will be an exchange of ideas.



The Spirit of Tasmania, arriving in Devonport

Brandon Goss, nominated last year as the Youth Conference Ambassador, is encouraging leaders and aspiring leaders aged 16 to 23 to attend the event.

'We've been fortunate to secure Australia's largest youth organisation, **The Oaktree Foundation**, to provide youth delegates with the knowledge and skills to become change-makers of the future,' said Mr Goss.



The Julie Burges sets sail

'Along with expanding our understanding of social justice issues across the globe, Oaktree will work with us on how to take action on the important local issues.'

Delegates will also have the opportunity to attend adult sessions, hearing from a range of Councils from across the country on their innovative programs shared between cities nationally and internationally.

The Sister Cities Australia Annual Conference will be held November 11 to 14 in Devonport with the Youth Conference held at Camp Banksia.

Registrations are open until 19 October 2012.

[Follow this link for further details.](#)



Taste the Harvest Festival, Devonport



Devonport Surf Club

### TWO CITIES CHOOSE CHINA

While Councils continue to value the cultural contribution of sister city relationships economic development is an increasing area of focus which has led the City of Perth and Gold Coast City Council to cement ties with the new economic powerhouse on the block, China.

The Mayor of Chengdu, Sichuan Province signed a new sister city contract with Perth at the 2012 China International Friendship Cities Conference.

The Agreement states that the two cities will 'cooperate in the areas of business, commerce, trade, education, energy, environmental protection, tourism, culture and governance, guided by the principles of mutual and complementary benefits and common prosperity.' Perth and Chengdu are also signatories to an international sister cities tourism alliance.

According to Cr Scaffidi (Mayor of Perth), 'There is great potential for development of economic and social relations and I urge West Australians to embrace our newest Sister City. We live in an increasingly globalised environment and there is so much to be gained by co-operation.'

The Gold Coast on the other hand already has a strong relationship with China through their sister city of Beihai but according to Cr Tate (Gold Coast Mayor), 'by having Zhuhai as our second Chinese sister city, along with Beihai, we are sending a clear message just how much we value this relationship and our intention to strengthen it.'

Zhuhai and the Gold Coast share many similarities as coastal cities and Council intends to develop export opportunities and knowledge exchange with Zhuhai through the new sister city agreement.

### REINVIGORATION

Not only will the Gold Coast sign a new sister city contract with China but they are committed to revitalising their 20 year sister city relationship with Noumea.

Gold Coast Mayor Cr Tate formally welcomed a visiting delegation, saying on the relationship with Noumea was an important one, based on both cultural and economic exchange.

'While the relationship has a great cultural and information exchange with Noumea, the relationship also has economic benefits for the city. They are a market for our local boat builders and marine industry and several hundred students from Noumea come here to study each year.'

'I am sure with this new agreement in place; we will be able to further enhance this economic exchange.'

Re-signing an agreement with Noumea is part of Council's plan to reinvigorate their sister city program along with the planned signing of a new agreement with Zhuhai, China at a Council-led trade mission to Zhuhai in November.

'As part of our commitment to creating new opportunities for local businesses, Council has made clear its intention to reinvigorate our sister city program and we will be working to establish more new sister cities in the future,' Cr Tate.

Should all proceed smoothly, the Mayor will formally sign the sister city agreement with Zhuhai as part of a Council-led trade mission to China in November.

### Meeting the Milestones

A brilliant Carnival of Flowers weekend provided a spectacular backdrop for numerous 10th anniversary commemorations of the Sister City Agreement between Paju, Republic of Korea and Toowoomba.

Toowoomba Region Mayor Paul Antonio said Council was delighted to host the Paju delegation headed by Mayor In Jae Lee and a performance group to mark the 10th anniversary of the formal signing of the Economic Sister City Agreement on October 2, 2002.

Cr Antonio presented Mayor Lee with a painting of Queens Park and thanked the visiting officials and performers for making the effort to visit the Garden City.

'Toowoomba has hosted 213 delegates, including this deputation, to the region in the past decade,' Cr Antonio said.

'Thirty delegates have visited Paju and I'm positive we will continue to build on our strong friendship with more interaction in coming years.'

'Beyond the economic links, Council sees enormous scope to expand cooperation for education and cultural exchanges between individuals and organisations.'



Above—Mayor Lee and Mayor Antonio with the Paju performers.

Below—Mayor Antonio presents Mayor Lee with a painting of Queen's Park



The two-day visit included the opening of the Straw and Plant Handicrafts exhibition at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery. The display features 51 items representing traditional Korean tools and plant handicrafts.

Works were chosen from the 14th exhibition in Korea organised by the Paju Culture Centre. The items will be shown at galleries around the region.

The delegation also attended a Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and Industry function and the Mayor's 14th Garden Party at the Village Green.

Mayor Lee's party watched the Carnival parade which featured the Paju performance group. The artists also performed at East State School and Toowoomba State High School Mt Lofty campus.

### Join us on Facebook

In essence the goal of every sister city program is to understand and appreciate other cultures and ways of life.

[Join us on Facebook](#) and embark on this journey together.

SCA invites you to contribute stories, photos, successes and even failures to our Facebook so that we can all learn from one another.