

A FEW WORDS FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Hello Sister City members.

Due to minor health issues with our President Bill Wilson, I have been asked to provide a few words of introduction, so let me say, welcome to the 2020 September edition of the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.

I'm sure Bill will be fighting fit and able to write his pearls of

wisdom for our next newsletter but in the meantime, all the best 'El Presidente' as we all attempt to cope with the unusual and extraordinary circumstances confronting us in this ongoing COVID crisis.

There is no doubt that the core values of understanding and friendship which underpin the ethos of Sister Cities have never been more apparent in societies than at the present time.

Despite examples of behaviour which could be considered to be outside accepted standards of society, ordinary citizens around Australia and in many other places throughout the world, irrespective of age, gender, location or race have banded and bonded together to achieve exceptional outcomes.

Whatever normality might be in the future, it is imperative that the values and traditions which

Sister Cities has sustained since 1948 continue to exist in an even stronger and more robust manner in a post-COVID era.

Whether the uses of new technology to maintain contact and communication or the hosting of restricted face to face meetings complete with face masks, sanitiser and wipes become the norm, the continuation of relationships which have been established over long periods of time remains even more important.

Remember, Sister Cities Australia is here to help so please feel free to contact any of the Executive Members.

As a sign of the times, the 2020 Sister Cities Australia Annual General Meeting will now be held on-line on Friday, 20 November. Please keep an eye out for the notification and details from our Secretary, Mike Jakins.

On behalf of SCA, please stay safe and I wish you all the best in these difficult and uncertain times.

Yours in Sister Cities,
Gordon Allen, Treasurer
Sister Cities Australia

What's new in this issue?

- ✓ [2020 AGM Details](#)
- ✓ [Tree Planting Ceremony, Busselton, WA](#)
- ✓ [SW Festival of Japan, Bunbury, WA](#)
- ✓ [Sharing Request to All](#)
- ✓ [SCNZ Newsletter](#)

2020 AGM

Details of the 2020 AGM to be held by Zoom Videoconference

You are invited to attend the Sister Cities Australia Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held via a Zoom videoconference commencing at 1:00pm (EDST) **Friday 20 November, 2020**.

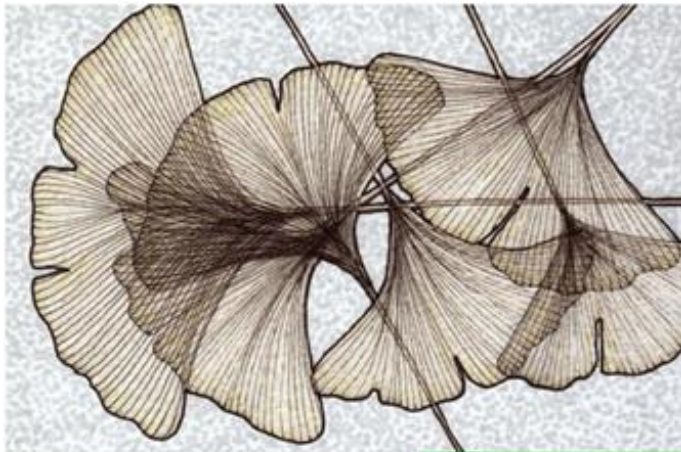
Please register to attend the AGM with the Secretary (mike.jakins@sistercitiesaustralia.com) by **Monday, 16 November, 2020**. If more than one person from your organisation will be

attending can you please register for all proposed attendees, and also provide their email details.

The link to attend the Zoom videoconference will be sent to all those registered on **Wednesday, 18 November, 2020**. Copies of all the appropriate paperwork will be provided to all SCA members prior to the AGM.

MAYORS FOR PEACE - SPECIAL ARTICLE

Ginkgo Tree Planting Ceremony, Busselton, WA



On World Peace Day (September 21), and in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan), a special tree planting took place at Rotary Park, Busselton, WA. As signatories to the Mayors for Peace initiative, Busselton City Council planted a sapling grown from the seeds of a Ginkgo tree that was burnt but survived the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

At the planting ceremony the proceedings were opened by the Busselton Mayor, Cr Grant Henley, and then followed a brief speech by local residents Erin and Casper Adson who, following a visit to Japan and Hiroshima (on Hiroshima Day), became advocates for the Mayors for Peace initiative and convinced Busselton to become signatories. Following a brief address from Pauline Vukelic, President of the Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association, the planting of the Ginkgo tree took place.

FACTS ABOUT THE GINKGO TREE

The ginkgo tree (ginkgo bilboa), also known as the maidenhair tree, is one of the most unusual tree species in the world. It has survived on the planet since the Jurassic period and is known as a 'living fossil'.

The name ginkgo is derived from the Japanese words 'gin' that means 'silver' and 'kyo' meaning 'apricot' and refers to the silvery apricot-like fruit of the tree. Known for its beauty and longevity, the ginkgo tree has remained unchanged for centuries.

Interesting facts:

- The tree can grow for thousands of years and one found in China is said to be over 3,500 years old.
- The ginkgo fruit is smelly with slippery flesh.
- It is listed on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Plants.
- It is known for its distinctive fan-shaped leaves.
- These medium green leaves turn golden-yellow in autumn and fall off in winter.
- Ginkgo bark and leaves secrete a sap that is thought to have fire-retardant properties.
- In Japan, the leaves are used as bookmarks, as they are known to protect the books from silverfish and booklice.
- There are no natural diseases that infect the tree and the tree does not seem to have problems with insects either. This may be one of the reasons of its longevity.



{l to r} Casper, Erin, Mayor Henley, and Pauline plant the Ginkgo tree

Click [HERE](#) for more information on Busselton's programs.

2020 SW Festival of Japan, Bunbury, WA

From the 4th to the 12th of September, the 3rd annual South West Festival of Japan was held in Bunbury, Western Australia.



Carol (in kimono) at the festival opening with Mr Semmyo, Deputy Consul General of Japan,

The inaugural South West Festival of Japan was held three years ago as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations with Bunbury's sister city of Setagaya, Japan. 2020 Festival sponsors were: the City of Bunbury; Regional Arts Western Australia; Simcoa; WAPRES; CLAIR (Japan Local Government Centre, Sydney); The Japan Foundation (Film Festival only); and, Moshi Moshi Marketing - the event is well loved by the Bunbury community.

The aim of the festival is to allow the community to interact with Japanese culture through arts, music, film, dance, craft and food. This year the 9 day festival combined several elements:

- Japanese Film Festival Satellite;
- Hanami Picnic Days (held on consecutive Saturdays);
- Free workshops in kimono, calligraphy, origami, paper making and stamping;
- Paid workshops in manga, Japanese sweets making and taiko drumming;
- Virtual workshop series which included 'Doing Business with Japan', 'Cooking', 'Haiku', 'Japanese Teas', and 'Travel Writing and Photography using elements of Japanese aesthetics';

- Anime movie screening by the South West anime community;
- Japanese food trucks;
- Karaoke night at a local pub;
- Stamp rally through the Bunbury CBD to engage local businesses.

At the Hanami Picnic days the community was invited to come down to the Stirling Street Arts Centre next to Bunbury's Friendship park, where the plum trees were blossoming. Here they could enjoy 'Hanami' while participating in Japanese arts and culture through the following performances and activities:

- Nyamaha Band (all girl cosplay Japanese tribute band);
- Bunbury Bel Canto Singers singing 'Sakura' and the 'Sukiyaki' song;
- TIDA Dance Group - Okinawa drummers;
- Subiaco Japanese Dance Group;
- Japanese Tea Ceremony;
- Taiko On drummers;
- Treendale Primary School Taiko;



Treendale Primary School Taiko Drummers

- Karate demonstrations;
- Kendo demonstrations;
- Kyudo Demonstrations;
- Kite flying and kite making;
- Market and information stalls including: Cosplay, Bonsai South West, Ikebana from the Bunbury Flower Group, Japanese handicrafts, ANA info stall, Japan Local Government Centre stall, Tokyo Underground (Japanese pop culture curios);
- Food trucks serving a range of Japanese foods.

The virtual workshops were a new component of the festival this year drawing participants from Canada, California, Singapore, Italy and India as well as participants from all states in Australia and parts of New Zealand. These free events were moderated by Bunbury Sister & Friendship Cities and marketing on Eventbrite/Facebook and run through Zoom. During these difficult times, this was a great way to bring people of all cultures together to celebrate what they love about Japanese culture.

- Yuki Nakamura on 'Doing Business in Japan' - <https://youtu.be/68w4MzAerfQ>
- 'Japanese Homestyle Cooking' by Sam Bottegal - <https://youtu.be/9bJxhJhFPXs>
- 'Japanese Teas' with Patsie of Nannup Tiny Tea Shop - <https://youtu.be/BKEMitOVzaA>
- 'The Art of Haiku' with Vahri McKenzie - https://youtu.be/JVZGD_8C8RY
- 'Wabi Sabi and the Wonder of the Everyday' with Will Yeoman (link not available yet)

The Stamp Rally was held for the first time in 2019 and was such a success the event organiser brought it back this year. Instead of using actual stamps as the event did in 2019, they used virtual stamps. Participants could pick up a free map/passport and go into participating shops to scan a QR code and reveal a picture of something Japanese like 'Origami', 'Mt Fuji' or 'tea ceremony'. This would be written on their passport. When all virtual stamps had been collected the passport could be turned in and drawn to win one of many Japanese hampers. These prizes were donated by sponsors and participating shops and included food, pop culture items, clothing, tea and more. Not only was this a fun activity for the community, but it encouraged people to frequent shops in the CBD and is highly valued by the business

community in Bunbury. You can watch how the stamp rally works here: <https://youtu.be/hdtZIZYAqso>.



This festival was a great way to leverage our relationship with Setagaya and to bring our two cities closer together through the arts and culture of Japan. The festival provides a vibrancy to the general Bunbury community as well as an economic benefit to the City of Bunbury through increased visitation from the region, including Perth. In addition, the Stamp Rally encouraged people to go through the CBD to discover new businesses and experience 'Japan' in the CBD. Several shops reported that on Hanami days they had the highest sales on record.

If anyone would like more information on any elements of the festival, please do not hesitate to connect the Bunbury Sister & Friendship Cities for more information.

Carol McDowall
Senior Officer International Engagement
cmcdowall@bunbury.wa.gov.au

Sister Cities New Zealand Newsletter



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

This issues includes items on the following:

- an update from the SCNZ board and Sister Cities International

- Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
- Whakatāne and Gisborne District Sister Cities updates
- 25 Years of Hutt–Minoh Sister City Relationship Celebrated
- South West Festival of Japan in Western Australia
- New Zealand Chinese Language Week 2020 launches
- Creativity flourished in lockdown for aspiring artists

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



Assisting with the promotion of the Sister Cities movement in Australia since 1978

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

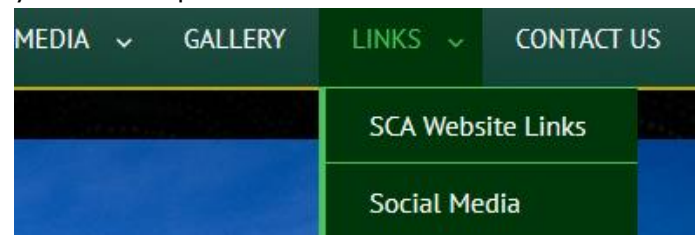
DISCLAIMER: Sister Cities Australia does not accept any liability or responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this directory. The directory has been faithfully compiled from the data provided, some of which has been substantiated however much of it has not. Persons or organisations 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.

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