

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter.



Sister Cities Australia Inc. (SCA) is an association of cities, towns, shires, ports and even states that have a Sister City relationship. It keeps a register of all Australian affiliations, of which it is aware, and welcomes additions to the listing.

The objective of SCA is to provide an umbrella of support and to promote these 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.

First envisaged in 1956 by President of the United States of America Dwight D Eisenhower, he had the vision of what cities in Australia have created today. Such a vast empire of sister city communities with a common objective of cultural awareness and world peace.

The SCA Affiliation register on our website lists 51 countries that Australian cities have affiliations with. There are 28 Sister State relationships and 9 Sister Port relationships. The impact on trade and tourism via our state network is impressive. Link these aspects with each of the individual sister city programs and the enviable network of communities continues.

Having seen the organisation grow dramatically since its first inception, it is evident that Sister Cities Australia has provided a wealth of knowledge and also the forums to network with fellow sister city colleagues. These forums need to continue, but we need your help.

Only recently I said to President Bill Wilson: "There is so much knowledge to be shared by all members, where is our next conference? Where are we headed?"

- How can we project better to our membership, what can we do for our members?
- How can we work together to enhance this fabulous world of sister city interaction?

How can your city help?

- By hosting the next conference in 2018.

How can you help?

- By nominating for the SCA National Executive at the next AGM later this year. These are 2 year terms. Your current executive comprises people like yourselves, from different walks of life, and loads of experience working with their city's sister city relationships. We meet twice a year, and network regularly via email.
- All positions are vacant and new input in any organisation is always welcomed. Your current executive is representative of NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC, and WA.
- By attending our AGM later this year. (Date and venue to be advised)

Our sister city network is very special. We look forward to receiving notification that a city is interested in hosting the next conference in 2018. To apply email our Secretary Mike Jakins or contact President Bill Wilson or myself to find out more about hosting a conference.

Yours in Sister City Friendship,

Jan Teasdale

Vice President

2017 SCA NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE



Awards entries have been received for this year's SCA National Awards and judging is soon to be finalized. Cities this year were able to complete their entries electronically. It is a totally new concept and welcomed by entrants and judges alike.

How is an award created? Take a look at that special exchange that is due to take place. Look at the categories listed, work out where the event is best entered in. Appoint a photographer and a scribe to take notes during the event. Perhaps arrange an interview or two!

Be prepared to open a door on cultural awareness with your sister city communities and enter an activity in our 2018 SCA National Awards Program.

The Sister City Project must take place between 31st March 2017 to 1st April 2018. Categories are:

1. Community Involvement
2. Youth Project
3. New Affiliation
4. Tourism and Exchange
5. Overall Program.

We have already had discussions with one city which has indicated it will enter next year.

For further information contact SCA National Awards Chair, Jan Teasdale

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM BUNBURY

The Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association's (BASSCA's) work recognised by Japanese Government.



The Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association (BASSCA) has recently been recognised by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan for their work in promoting mutual understanding, goodwill and friendship between Japan and Australia.

Minister Fumio Kishida bestowed commendations upon 187 individuals and 45 groups or organisations worldwide. Out of these commendations a total of 160 individuals and 36 groups and organisations were outside of Japan, which included four from Western Australia.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded annually to individuals or groups in recognition of exceptional and distinguished services in the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and their respective countries.

President of BASSCA, Pauline Vukelic, advised "This award comes as BASSCA celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Busselton and the town of Sugito and to receive such a rare recognition in this milestone year caps off what has been an amazing year".

BASSCA was recognised for their work in deepening the friendship between Busselton and Saitama Prefecture's, Sugito Town and their



programmes, which include an annual Student Exchange and Biennial Community Cultural Exchange. More than 500 students and community members have participated in reciprocal visits



between the cities and experienced a unique immersive homestay experience. Spanning generations, BASSCA has worked for over 20 years to plan and implement cultural, art and person-to-person exchanges between the cities, involving

students, community members, teachers and City officials.

Other Western Australian Recipients were:

- Gerard Boylan, Former President of Australia-Japan Society, Western Australia
- Terry O'Toole, Former President Australia-Japan Society of Geraldton
- Support Net Niji no Kai

The award was formally presented by Mr Tatsuo Hirayama, Consul-General of Japan, Perth at the Civic Welcome Function for Sugito Students visiting as part of the Annual Student Exchange Program, on Monday evening (7 August 2017).

An interview opportunity is available on the night or the following day with Pauline Vukelic, President of BASSCA.

Media enquiries can be directed to:

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EXTRA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM HOBSONS BAY Hobsons Bay City Council Bids Farewell to Margaret Evans.

After 30 years working at Altona/Hobsons Bay City Council, Margaret Evans, past secretary of Sister Cities Australia for many terms, is retiring. In 1987 when Margaret first began working at the then Altona City Council the sister city relationship between Altona and the Aichi was in its early stages with large industries from Aichi operating in Altona. During this transition period Margaret developed an understanding of the benefits brought to a community through involvement in international relations. The following year the Sister City Relationship was formalised. Anjo City sent over their first group of students with Margaret volunteering to be a host.

During the early nineties Margaret attended many National Conventions, and from 1991, for 3 years in a row, the Altona team put forward a bid to hold the Sister City Convention in Altona. Finally successful, the convention was held in 1995 with Altona now amalgamated with surrounding suburbs to form Hobsons Bay.

Organizing a national conference, with the interesting title of "Partnership in Friendship and Trade" requires knowledge and skills in council procedures, networking, planning, promoting and teamwork, along with an appreciation of the value

of international relationships. Well suited to Margaret's abilities.

Margaret developed many lifelong friendships with interstate sister city representatives, so it was not long before Margaret was elected onto the National Executive as Secretary. This secretarial role with ASCA was to promote the benefits of Sister City Relationship worldwide, to liaise with the current membership and to work with the National Executive in an administrative role, organizing meetings and conferences. In the opinion of SCA Vice President, Jan Teasdale, "Margaret is very efficient, friendly, but when needed, strong in her opinions."



Photo of Margaret accepting bouquet from Hobsons Bay International Friendship Association President Joy Martin with Hobsons Bay Mayor Sandra Wilson at the Mayoral Reception for the Anjo Student Delegates

This new role took Margaret to international sister city conferences where she enjoyed the "red carpet treatment" in China, New Zealand and the USA, where in Dallas, Margaret, with her extensive experience, was asked to give a presentation at the conference on "Youth". Back in her own city in 2001 Margaret enjoyed the responsible role of Chaperone to the Hobsons Bay student representatives and continues to host numerous international visitors.

While Margaret has retired from paid work after 30 years at the council, the Hobsons Bay International

Friendship Association trust Margaret's valuable support will continue. Celebrations for the 30th Anniversary of the HB Sister City Agreement take place next year and due to Margaret's long involvement her assistance will be invaluable. We all wish Margaret an adventurous retirement with many opportunities to catch up with old friends.

Following the presentation of flowers to Margaret she was sincerely thanked personally and on behalf of the Hobsons Bay Friendship Association for her valuable support over almost 30 years, and hoping that this will continue.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE READ DURING THE PRESENTATION TO MARGARET

In 1991 the Annual Australian Sister Cities Association Conference was held in Devonport Tasmania. The Secretary of the then Australian Sister Cities Association, Jan Teasdale from Belmont in WA sends us this message.

"Margaret and I were two switched on, dedicated workers, who enjoyed a love of life, dancing, good company and the Japanese Culture with our respective sister cities Anjo and Adachi. This was the start of a delightful friendship in our Sister City World.



Members vied to hold the Sister City Conference in their city - Margaret won with a colourful "Whip" bid, to hold the national conference in Altona in 1995.

Margaret and I continued to enjoy the annual conferences and resultant Sister City friendships. With both of us being very active in our sister city committees, it was not long before we were elected onto the National Executive, Margaret as Secretary and myself as Vice President. We both shared a passion for uniting countries with different cultures.

Always the diplomat, proudly, our ASCA executive, including Marg, visited China promoting sister city relationships whilst enjoying the 'red carpet treatment'.

In closing Marg, it has been my pleasure to have met and worked with you on the SCA National Executive to achieve sister city visions world-wide. Friends are just so important and I know the many people we met during our time together would join me in wishing you all the best for continued good health and good times in your retirement. And above all have fun!"

Jan Teasdale: Vice President
Sister Cities Australia



NEWSLETTER

www.sistercitiesaustralia.com

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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

Email: [Click here to email Caisley](#)

Secretary - Mike Jakins

Mobile: 0417 176 568

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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 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](#)

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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.