

Devonport gift to ASCA

DEVONPORT Embroidery Guild members have made an official banner for the Australian Sister Cities Association (ASCA) national conference.

The banner features the floral emblem of every state and territory in Australia, the ASCA logo and the words 'People to People Across the World'.

Australia's national flower the Wattle is featured on the banner along with a map of Australia.

Embroidery Guild members volunteered their time to make the banner, which will be unveiled at the ASCA national conference to be held at Devonport during November.

After each national conference, the banner will be passed on to the city that will host the conference the following year.

Next year the conference will be held in Darwin, so the new banner will be taken across the country to the Northern Territory's capital city for the 2007 conference.

The cost of the materials for the project, which was minimal, was funded from the council's conference budget as a gift to the Australian Sister Cities Association.

The embroiderers contributed hours of their time to perform the detailed work.

Wendy Goss was responsible for the design and appliqué on the banner and the quilting was done by Vonda Jeffrey.

Lettering was done by Julie Briggs.

Devonport Sister Cities Association vice president and Embroidery Guild member Alida Beattie coordinated the activity. Embroiderers were Elaine Vellacott, Judy Marshall, Kath Wardle, Heather Brooke, Helen West, Ros Donald, Lorice Smith, Faye Stredwick, Vivienne Duffy and Wendy Goss.

It is planned that the banner will be displayed for members of the community to view after presentation at the conference in November.

Skilled hands fashion ASCA banner



DEVONPORT Embroidery Guild members. Standing from left: Coordinator Alida Beattie, Kath Wardle, Vonda Jeffrey, Elaine Vellacott, Vivienne Duffy, Wendy Goss, and Heather Brooke. Seated: Lorice Smith, Faye Stredwick, and Ros Donald. Absent Julie Briggs, Judy Marshall, and Helen West.

Mayoral invitation

ON behalf of Devonport City Council I would like to invite you to this year's Australian Sister Cities Association National Conference to be held in Devonport from Sunday 12 to Wednesday 15 November 2006. Devonport is Tasmania's northern gateway situated on the banks of the Mersey River, home port of the Bass Strait ships, 'Spirit of Tasmania' and a vibrant, tourist orientated seaport city. Devonport is also well serviced by Qantaslink with the airport less than a 10 minute drive away. The Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre, two federation buildings, refurbished, reinvigorated and extended to become the premier performing arts and convention centre for Tasmania's Northern Coastal region is the main venue for the conference. Delegates will find that Tasmania is no longer the quaint, quiet backwater that many perceive it to be. The North West region offers wilderness, coastal and historical attractions all within easy reach. So as a destination it offers the opportunity to experience the heritage, natural beauty and wilderness which is unique to this State and to

taste in abundance the magnificent food and wine which is the product of the island's clean seas, pure water and rich soil. It is not just the compact nature of the State, our natural and built heritage, clean air, relaxed lifestyle, incredible



Devonport mayor Lynn Laycock

scenery, great food and wines, it is the hospitality and genuine warm welcome you will receive. We encourage you to bring your partners and take some extra time to experience a little of what Tasmania has to offer.

We hope you will 'Share the Spirit, Naturally' and allow us to inform, educate and inspire you in Devonport.

Cr Lynn Laycock.

Be in the spirit at Devonport

DEVONPORT will celebrate during its 2006 conference the significant 30 year milestone of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Australia and Japan.

The Japanese and Australian governments have recognised this time in our history by setting aside 2006 as the Australia Japan Year of Exchange.

Devonport will also be celebrating the 10th anniversary of its sister city agreement with Minamata in Japan.

The theme for the conference is 'Share the Spirit, Naturally'.

The Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre, in the heart of the city, is the main venue for the conference.

Block bookings of accommodation have been reserved to ensure delegates will have access to a range of quality accommodation - most within walking distance of the conference centre, but transport will be provided between all venues and activities.

Devonport hasn't forgotten the social side of the conference - a very important part of the conference that allows delegates to network and learn more from each other.

On offer will be luscious and tempting food and great entertainment.

It is also the chance for the youth delegates to share the experience with the adults.

A large part of the National Sister Cities Association mission is encouraging the leaders of tomorrow to be active participants in the future of the sister city movement.

The youth and adult delegates will come together at times throughout the conference but the

youth program, titled Who's Ya Sister will be youth led and youth connected.

Fresh from travelling the globe, Tim McLaren will be the youth host and will come together with Sarah Rouse and Sarah Leary, our youth delegates, Ben McKay, the United Nations Youth Association, Celia Bray, founder and manager of Festival of Dreams, Lynne Ferencz and Jonathon Turner. The youth delegates will get a kick out of culture through a range of interesting and dynamic workshops to leave them inspired and thirsty for more.

The youth program will be held at Camp Clayton where they specialise in adventure, fun, learning and making memories that will last a lifetime.

The youth delegates will take part in a rescue mission of an oriental kind, extreme challenges designed to excite and international moments to treat and relax.

The United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) will facilitate several workshops in a variety of areas, featuring the ying and yang of global issues.

Conference programs have been mailed to all local governments throughout Australia, with a very promising response. Nearly 40 per cent of the accommodation has already been booked - well in advance of the early bird cut off date of 31 August.

If you haven't seen a conference program brochure or would like more information visit our website at www.sistercitiesdevonport.com or contact conference co-ordinator Tricia Alford, on 6424 0562 or taa@dcc.tas.gov.au.

The conference will be held from Sunday 12 to Wednesday 15 November.

President's message

WELCOME once again to Sister Cities News. The paper that showcases the programs of the sister city family in Australia.

There has never been a better time to tell the world that we believe in the people to people program and we want to display our country and to learn about theirs.

When president Eisenhower convened the historic white house summit on citizen diplomacy in September 1956, he had a vision of lasting peace generated by thousands of internationally engaged citizens. His intention was to build on the growing community friendship ties, established after the horrors of the Second World War, by involving more individuals and groups in the growing citizen diplomacy movement.

It was his hope that personal relationships, fostered through sister city, country and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts. That was half a century ago and while conflicts still abound, in the world there are the good stories to be told about the last 50 years - the stories of peace through people over the last 50 years of global citizenship and sister city programs. And throughout the world the commitment to sister city programs grows stronger with almost every country on earth embracing the ideals and vision of a better world through people to people diplomacy and exchange. Now is the time to share your cities achievements and activities. Just get in touch with editor Jim Mynard and send in your stories.

In July Vice President Jan Teasdale and I attended the 50th anniversary of Sister Cities International in Washington DC. It was an enormous event with around 1400 people including 200 young people from 45 countries attending. We had the opportunity to meet and discuss many issues with our counterparts from around the world. It was a great networking experience and there will be a follow up report in the next issue of Sister City News.

The Conference in Devonport is really shaping up to eclipse the great time we had there in 1991 with plenty of high profile speakers and worthwhile workshops to become involved in. Devonport mayor Lynn Laycock has promised me that her council team is waiting to host us as only Tasmanians know how.

I'll leave you with this final thought from president Dwight D Eisenhower 50 years ago.

"Two deeply held convictions unite us in common purpose.

First is our belief in effective, responsive local government as a principal bulwark of freedom.

Second is our faith in the great promise of sister city affiliations in helping build the solid structure of world peace."

Once again thank you for your support, I will see you in Devonport.

Councillor Kevin Hill JP



Cr Kevin Hill

Port Stephens sailors in Pacific yachting challenge

NINE Port Stephens sailors and supporters competed in the bi-annual Pacific Yachting Challenge at Tauranga, New Zealand in June.

The Port Stephens team competed against New Zealand, United States of America, Canada, Japan, and Russia.

The challenge is based on a sister cities connection with these countries and has been held since 1990.

Teams were home hosted in Tauranga, giving everyone a unique opportunity to make friends, meet old friends and see a beautiful part of the land of the Long White cloud.

The race was held in new Zealand 10 years ago and again this year the New Zealanders proved to be perfect hosts.

Visitors enjoyed tours, events, and dinners with more than 100 people.

The eight race series in Farr 11.6 yachts provided some exciting races in all wind conditions from five to more than 30 knots

and seas from flat calm to nearly three metres. During the 22 mile ocean race around Motiti Island boats were surfing down waves at more than 14 knots while under spinnakers.

Conditions at times were so rough that the Australian team had two people injured who required hospital treatment. The Kiwis were always the team to beat, particularly on their home water and in familiar boats.

The Australian team had mixed success with results '5-5-6-6-6-4-3-1'.

Final results were 1st new Zealand; 2nd Canada; 3rd Russia; 4th USA; 5th Australia; and 6th Japan.

Members of the Australian team were captain Greg Lane, tactician Chris Wilson, bowman Laurie Hughes and John Grainger, mastman Ken Buckingham, pitman Bob Robinson, main sheet Clive Dutton, trimmers Graham Harris and Bill Armstrong.

Port Stephens to Japan

MEMBERS of the Port Stephens Sister Cities committee have returned rich in Japanese culture after a 24 day visit to Tateyama and Yugawara.

The committee members stayed with host families during the trip, helping to strengthen the cities relationship with Port Stephens.

Members of the committee visit Japan every second year and host visitors from

the sister cities during the years between. Tateyama is a friendship city, but has approached Port Stephens Council to progress a formal sister city relationship and will host the Pacific Rim Challenge in 2008.

Committee member Bill Tindall said that despite the language difficulty everyone found the home stays a wonderful cultural experience.

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Secretary's message

The Australian Sister Cities Association's (ASCA) annual conference will be held in Devonport, Tasmania this year from 12 to 15 November and I encourage you all to attend.

The program has interesting content with informative speakers so diary note this event and hopefully we will see you in Devonport.

You may wish to send along a few young people to participate in the lively Youth Program, which runs concurrently with the delegates' program.

Also, the National Awards section, which is part of the conference has attracted 38 submissions this year from 16 member cities.

This is an enormous effort by all those concerned and a great way to showcase sister city programs.

ASCA's website is now well utilised, receiving a substantial amount of hits and subsequent inquiries so if you have not already been on the site, please do so.

The website is www.asca.asn.au. I see there are lots of good news stories in this edition, and it's great to see sister city relationships working well in achieving successful programs within their cities.

I would like to encourage others to include articles and photographs, after all it is a great way to display your city and sister city activities.



Margaret Evans

Editorial

I WOULD like to compile a list of sister cities activities from throughout Australia that provide some economic benefit.

This includes business, tourism, including the number of flights using Qantas Airways and things such as hotel and motel rooms taken, hire cars, taxis, restaurant meals, and shopping experiences by international visitors to Australia.

Please send information to mynard@nex.net.au or to Box 105, Lang Lang, Victoria 3984.

Editor.

Advertising consultant

A performance based part-time position is available with the Australian Sister Cities Association.

Details are available from ASCA national secretary Margaret Evans, Box 368, Altona, Victoria, 3018 or 03 9932 1043. mevans@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Coffs Harbour and Sasebo new student exchange

THE councils of Coffs Harbour and its sister city, Sasebo on the island of Kyushu in Japan, have developed a student exchange program.

Each council sponsors three students to visit the other city on alternate years.

At Easter Coffs Harbour City Council sponsored three students from Toormina High School to visit Sasebo.

Concurrently 14 students from Bishop Drutt College in Coffs Harbour also visited Sasebo led by president of the Australia - Japan Society of Coffs Harbour Peter Nichols.

This delegation was endorsed as a year of exchange project.

Focus of the study tour was signing a sister school agreement with Seiwa Joshi Gakuin, the School of Heavenly Peace, started by Australian Good Samaritan nuns in Sasebo after World War II.

Any student concern about meeting the homestay families immediately evaporated in the face of the enthusiastic welcome at Sasebo station.

For the next week BDC stu-

dents and Toormina High School students were immersed in Japanese culture, language, history, homelife and education, as the schools cemented a bond of friendship and cooperation. They enjoyed a cruise among the 99 islands.

During a reception given by the Japan - Australia Society of Sasebo Mr Nichols invited everyone to come to Coffs Harbour for the conference of the National Federation of Australia - Japan Societies in July 2008.



Jessica Swan, Holly O'Dwyer, Jennifer and Russell Murchie, and Sasebo mayor Akira Mitstutake.

La Trobe teacher for Takasago

TRARALGON teacher Catherine Reid has been appointed the new Assistant English Teacher (AET) in Takasago, Japan.

Catherine started her position in Traralgon's Japanese sister city in early August.

She is working at the Takasago Junior High School to assist with classes taught by Japanese English teachers in the junior high schools.

She will also participate in kindergartens, elementary schools and other educational facilities with international exchange activities.

Catherine has already taught English to students in Japan on a previous placement with a private language school three years ago.

"I was originally there to teach for a year in a town not far from Takasago, saving some money on my way to the UK, but by the end of the year I was enjoying myself so much that I wanted to stay on."

"I never made it to the UK but rather ended up staying for an additional year and a half," Catherine said.

"I'm still a bit nervous about going over there; of course I'm very excited at the same time."

"I'm looking forward to being back in Japan, seeing friends I left behind last time, and eating the foods that I miss."

"Teaching English in Japan was an amazing experience that I can't wait to experience again."

"During my stay in Japan between 2001 and 2003, I learnt not only a lot about myself, but also a great deal about Japan, Japanese people and their culture."

"I learnt that the Japanese people are hard workers, but they also love to travel and experience different cultures. They have many traditions which I hope they never lose. I have a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biology) from Monash University, and I work as a medical scientist, but I really love helping and teaching people and seeing them improve."

"There is nothing more rewarding in a job than seeing improvement in your students and knowing that you have made a significant contribution to this improvement."

"I look forward to sharing my language and my culture with the students of Takasago Junior High School."

"Similar to how we have a Japanese Day here in La Trobe City, I am hoping to introduce an Australia Day over there."

"I'm also excited about experiencing more Japanese culture, especially some of the

cultural events which I missed out on last time I was there - Japan is famous for its many festivals held throughout the year which I look forward to partaking in, and I would love to witness a Japanese baseball game or a sumo wrestling tournament," Catherine said.

Mackay's heartfelt welcome

MACKAY residents opened their doors and hearts to home host 15 students and three adults from their sister city Matsuura, in Japan.

The Matsuura contingent arrived on Thursday 17 August and spent eight days learning about Mackay and Australian customs.

Mackay - Matsuura Sister City Committee Chair Cr Joan Williamson said the students' visit was part of an annual program that started in 1989.

"The Mackay - Matsuura sister city relationship first started in 1989 and more than 240 students from Matsuura have visited Mackay."

Cr Williamson said every year the Mackay community welcomed the students and their interpreters into their homes and the council organised a variety of activities for the students and their host families.

"These visits have created life-long friendships and are valued by everyone who participates." Cr Williamson said during the

Priceless kites in action at Sutherland

SUTHERLAND Shire residents hosted a spectacular kite flying display at Wanda Beach on Saturday 17 June as part of 15th anniversary celebrations of Sutherland's sister city relationship with Chuo City.

Windy weather obliged for the function and the sky was awash with colour as the magnificent collection of kites soared around the sky. The display was in honour of a visit to Sutherland of a special delegation from Chuo in Tokyo.

Chuo City's priceless kite collection was flown in for the event and included two tied kites made from more than 120 small kites strung together to form a wonderful display of colour high into the sky.

This event was an important part of our civic celebrations to mark the anniversary and the shire's families were given the opportunity to enjoy watching the kites fly around the sky, have a sausage sizzle and see the children have lots of fun.



The delegation from Chuo City also attended the Sutherland Shire Centenary Mayoral Ball. Mayor Yada and the chairman of the assembly were part of the official receiving party to whom the debutantes were presented. The ball raises money each year for charity and this year more than \$23,000 was raised for the Sutherland Shire Rural Fire Service.

visit that the students attended school, a bush dance, played ball games on the beach, and visited local attractions.

"The aim of the students' visit is to give them opportunities to practise their English speaking skills and for them to sample what life is like in Australia," Cr Williamson said.

Matsuura is a coastal city located on Japan's second largest island Kyushu in the Nagasaki Prefecture.

Twenty adults from Matsuura will also visit Mackay during November for four days as part of the biennial citizens visit.



Ashleigh, Lisa, and Julie Sercombe welcome Shiho Ikeno from Matsuura.

Tell about your city

From Beijing to outback Australia

CONFERENCE organisers have asked for background information about the activities of delegates' home towns and the city they have a relationship with in order to make workshops specific.

Conference co-ordinator Trish Alford asked delegates to complete the information on the registration form.

"This will add value to the program.

"Delegates will receive practical and useful strategies that can be beneficial in not only the development of sister city relationships, but also to their own communities.

"They will be given the opportunity to step outside the traditional cultural and educational activities and focus on the untapped resource of business to business cross pollination to widen visions and enhance long-term benefits.

"They will get a perspective on the ways in which

regional and local governments can make a real and sustainable difference to their economic prosperity and how sister city relationships can contribute to community vitality.

"This will provide opportunity to challenge perspectives, appreciate and accept diversity, share ideas, investigate possible joint ventures and enrich cultural life.

"Delegates will gain a better understanding of the potential long term impacts of travel from both a business and leisure perspective and discuss examples that demonstrate how the learnings from travel can be applied to home situations.

"The concept of place branding is used within tourism as a marketing perspective but can also be used by planners to ensure the values of a location are preserved and enhanced.

"They will discover the personality within, explore what makes people

'tick', learn the three ways to resolve any breakdown in communication and leave with a greater appreciation of the valuable role education plays in improving community understanding of relationships between a resource, changing technology and community use of that

Thanks to our sponsors

WE are grateful for the financial support received from the Japan Local Government Centre Sydney (CLAIR), Korea Local Authorities Foundation for International Relations (KLAFIR), Tasmanian Government's Department of Economic Development, and Qantaslink. They make it possible for us to organise a truly inspirational conference program.

THREE Chinese visitors to Tamworth had a quick adjustment to make when they started a 10 week exchange. They were teachers, Cao Xuelian, Luo Shaoyun, and 16 year old student Zhang Chen. They were from the Beijing Senior Performance and Vocational High School for Ethnic Minorities from the Chaoyang District in Beijing. It was through a strong relationship with Chaoyang that one of the Tamworth schools, Oxley High School, established a sister school relationship with the Beijing school.



Mrs Cao Xuelian (Julian), Mrs Luo Shaoyun (Shayun) and Miss Zhang Chen (August) at the Tamworth lookout during May 2006.

The visitors were introduced to their hosts and quickly whisked away on a 16 day camping safari to Central Australia and coastal Queensland. They joined 158 year ten Oxley students, when they toured Coober Pedy, Yulara resort, Uluru, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and the Great Barrier Reef and coastal Queensland. They soon blended in well with the staff and students and learned how large and dry the inland areas of Australia can be. They experienced parts of Australia that many of

their fellow citizens have seen only on television. The trio also participated in the normal day to day classroom school life at Oxley. The hospitality of Oxley High School enhanced the credibility of the sister city relationship.

Chinese opportunity

ZHENJIANG in the State of Jiangsu, China is seeking a sister city relationship, preferably in Victoria, Australia. Zhenjiang has a population of 2.9 million and paper making, chemicals, and manufacturing industries.

It has seven high learning institutions, a 3000 year history and is the capital of the Wu Kingdom. Contact is Lydia Shaw, Zhenjiang Foreign Affairs Office, 141 Zheng-dong Road, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, China. or phone 0086 511 4425232. z/wbycc@hotmail.com

Impressive speakers' forum for Devonport

Michael Vertigan

Michael holds an honours degree in economics from the University of Tasmania and obtained his PhD in Business Administration and Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He pursued an academic career in the US, Canada and Western Australia teaching in the fields of account-

ing, information systems and managerial economics prior to joining the public service working in both Tasmania and Victoria in senior roles for the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Treasury and Finance. Dr Vertigan is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration of Australia and a Fellow

of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He received the AICD Tasmanian Division Gold Medal as Director of the year in 2000. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2004 Australia Day Honours List and was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal in 2003.

David Hamilton

DAVID spent his formative years at Scottsdale, in Tasmania's northeast, with a short time on King Island before attending the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

After graduating he spent the next 22 years teaching Science in secondary schools around Tasmania. During 1990 David left the State Education Department and began working with the Forest Education Foundation.

His work with this organisation has many facets including working with students from Prep to University level providing classroom and field experiences relating to Tasmania's forests, their ecology, evolution and management, historical use of forest environments by both Aboriginal and more recent populations, the

timber industry and issues arising from human use of forest environments. He recently worked with the State Education Department in developing a new Science curriculum and has developed and run nationally accredited TAFE courses in Tourism Guiding.

David also works in cooperation with the Minerals Council and Hydro Tasmania to provide professional development tours for teachers across the state.

As well as his work with the Forest Education Foundation David is currently chairman of the National Forest Education and Awareness Committee, which is a sub group of the Forest and Forest Products Committee of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council.

Jim Cavaye

JIM is the director of Cavaye Community Development, and one of Australia's leading community development practitioners with a PhD from the United States.

He is an international speaker, accomplished practitioner, educator and researcher in community development with 20 years experience working in rural and regional communities, organisations and government agencies across Australia on a range of major regional development initiatives.

He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Regional Development (CQU) and at the Community Service and Research Centre (UQ).

Robyn Moore

FOR 30 years, Robyn has been changing peoples' perception through the power of the word as an educator, in advertising, syndicated radio comedy, animation series and now as Australia's most in demand female speaker.

She is passionate about increasing access to human potential and opening pathways to 100 per cent participation in life through breakthrough communication.

Robyn is the national patron of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an Australia Day Ambassador for the Australia Day Council, an Ambassador for the Aus-

tralian Childhood Foundation and a passionate Tasmanian.

She has a unique relationship with words and weaves together humour, powerful stories and life-altering distinctions to cre-

ate experiential presentations which give people greater access to satisfaction, balance, results, leadership, service, and well being and laughter in their professional and personal lives.

Claire Ellis

CLAIRE is the director, destination development for Tourism Tasmania.

From 2001-2005 she worked at the University of Tasmania lecturing in the tourism program and completing a PhD examining an area within volunteer tourism.

Dr Ellis grew up in Tasmania, but also spent 14 years living and working in Indonesia, Vietnam, China, USA, and within Australia

at Perth, Darwin and Canberra as well as Tasmania.

During this time Claire started and ran her own businesses, but also spent nearly three years working for the Indonesian office of the World Wide Fund for Nature, worked as a lecturer and consultant mostly in tourism.

She also wrote two non-fiction books as well as numerous magazine articles.

Michael Turner

MICHAEL is a former Commando in the Australian Special Forces and now the managing director of 10 companies, eight Australian, one in New Zealand, and one in Japan.

He has a specialised interest in the research, development and commercialisation of innovative products and inventions through a collaborative working relationship with the Australian Nuclear Science Organisation and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and his links into the CSIRO. He is also the national president of the Australian Industry and Defence Network (AIDN).

Lynne Ferencz

LYNNE'S academic background is in Education and Training with post-graduate qualifications in adult learning, workplace training and gestalt based counselling. During the past seven years Lynne has worked as a training and development coordinator, industry trainer and consultant.

She has also facilitated the strategic planning of a large number of community organisations and associations. Lynne's clients come from a variety of industrial, community, government and

educational organisations including the pulp and paper industry, the manufacturing sector, the aqua culture industry, the finance industry as well as local, state and federal government departments.

She has undertaken community consultations on behalf of Advance Burnie, the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training and Tourism Tasmania. Lynne is also the owner-operator of a group of heritage accommodation cottages.

Edogawa youth wing at Gosford

TWENTY five students and two adult representatives of Edogawa City straggled out of Sydney Airport on Tuesday 25 July to a cold day.

They were members of the Edogawa Youth Wing, an annual student exchange program between Edogawa City and Gosford City. Tokyo Metropolitan Komatsugawa High School principal Etsuko Emi, and Kenji Sekiyama of Edogawa City Office, accompanied the students.

The students were school hosted by Narara Valley High School and home hosted by families whose children are in the school band. The Band will visit Japan for the Edogawa Festival in October and also Kyoto and Hiroshima. The visit made possible the bonding of the students who are now looking forward with a better understanding of Japanese culture, to their October visit. The Australian Reptile Park was the first Australian experience for the students who despite the poor weather enjoyed meeting koalas, kangaroos, snakes and an Aussie barbeque. They also visited Aboriginal carving sites with an indigenous person who gave them a crash course in Aboriginal food sources.

Unfortunately the whales did not show during a visit to the coast, but they did enjoy the dolphins at Port Stephens and also four wheel driving over the dunes at Anna Bay. The beauty of Sydney Harbour and the zoo on a nice sunny day, was a wonderful experience provided by the homestay families. The students all believe their conversation English improved during their school experience and their understanding of Australian culture increased. The adults also had many experiences, including visiting the Henry Kendall Cottage and Museum, Terrigal Beach, Erina Fair Shopping Centre and welfare organisations. Gosford City Council provided morning tea, a meeting with Gosford mayor Laurie Maher and a happy farewell party held at Narara Valley High School. The school is positive about this visit and happily agreed to host the 2007 group. This exchange proves once again the importance of sharing cultural experiences to help young people overcome any prejudices and to make our world a more harmonious and caring world. From Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10 September Mayor Tada will accompany 57 Edogawan citizens to Gosford to attend the Australian Flora Festival at Mt Penang Gardens, Kariang. Bonsai Master Kobayashi will be demonstrating Bonsai Art at the special Japanese Pavilion at the festival whilst Ken Lamb of Imperial Gardens is building a miniature Japanese Garden. The citizens will demonstrate Japanese arts and crafts. The Edogawa Gosford Commemorative Garden at East Gosford, has been refreshed with new paving and bamboo fencing and the pond cleaned. It is ready to welcome visitors to our beautiful city and we invite people to come and enjoy the garden, the Gosford Regional Gallery and Parklands.



Gosford mayor Laurie Maher welcomes Edogawa Youth Wing visitors to Gosford City Council.

Consistent interaction wins

By John Green,
chairman of the Tamworth
Sister City Committee.

FOR those communities and their councils who are considering establishing relations with a town or city in China, the experiences of Tamworth may be a helpful guide in establishing firm relationships.

Tamworth is an active community and has a strong and developing relationship with the Chaoyang District in Beijing, China. This relationship was established in 1994 and has been growing in maturity and strength since.

Tamworth is well known for its fame as the home of Australian Country Music. It conducts the annual Australian Country Music Festival and Awards each January. Apart from the country music, Tamworth is a community of 55,000 servicing a rich agricultural region on the north west slopes of inland NSW.

Chaoyang District is located in the city of Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China.

The Chaoyang District has a population of 2.3 million and is the most prosperous and dynamic of the local government areas within Beijing.

There are 310 secondary schools and 53 universities located in the District.

It is also the location for 161 foreign embassies and the site for the new CBD of Beijing.

The initial friendship agreement between the two communities brought a lot of angst and concern to the then Tamworth City Council.

The agreement was signed but the concern related to how to service the new agreement.

There are many friendship agreements which have been signed by Australian and Chinese communities where nothing has progressed.

This is where the Tamworth experience can be a helpful guide to those communities thinking about establishing such relationships.

In Tamworth, the key to the growth and maturity of the relationship between the two communities has been constancy and an understanding of the Chinese principle of Guanxi.

The constancy started in 1995 when one of Tamworth's high schools ventured to

organise a school excursion to Beijing. Since that first venture, that school, Oxley High School, has conducted 16 visits to the Chaoyang District and in 1997 established a sister school link with one of Chaoyang District's premier secondary schools.

This school is The Beijing Senior Performance and Vocational High School for Ethnic Minorities.

To many, this sister school link would be seen as a small thing.

However, the consistency of the interaction between these two schools has been the key to maintaining Tamworth's successful sister city relationship in China.

Every year, even after the disastrous SARS virus in 2003, Oxley High School, Tamworth has visited Chaoyang at least once a year with delegations of students, teachers and parents.

These visitations have assured the Chaoyang District Government of the genuine nature and desire to create friendship and cultural understanding.

*If you are going to say
that you are going to do
something, then you must
proceed to do it.*

All the delegations have included at least one member of the Tamworth Sister City Committee.

Over the years, the Tamworth - Chaoyang relationship has developed and matured. There are now effective teacher and student exchanges organised directly by the schools through the Tamworth Sister City Committee.

In May 2006, Tamworth hosted two teachers and a student from the Beijing school for 10 weeks, while later in October, Chaoyang will host a teacher and student from Oxley High School for a similar exchange. In November, the Chaoyang District Government will be sending eight

professional members to be hosted by the Tamworth community.

The Sister City Committee is working closely with the Rotary clubs to organise the hosting for this program.

The object of this visit by Chaoyang is to improve the English speaking capabilities of the visitors in preparation for the coming Olympics in August 2008.

Far too many times, Australian communities try to establish friendship agreements with the sole object of creating business opportunities.

There are many cultural differences between Australia and China and these need to be understood by both communities before effective business relationships can be established.

One such principle is Guanxi. In good old Aussie slang, this translates into 'saving face'.

This is the basis of most of the business in China.

This means creating genuine friendships and maintaining a good name.

If you are going to say that you are going to do something, then you must proceed to do it.

Not proceeding, whatever the case can cause your Chinese friends to lose face and destroy their credibility.

This comes to many as a hard lesson. Tamworth learned this when it underwent a massive change in 2004.

The council was dissolved and the much larger Tamworth Regional Council was created.

Something that we take as insignificant such as a name change and asking to postpone a visit while the restructure of the new council was undertaken caused problems that are still trying to be overcome.

The Tamworth experience shows the importance of establishing a foundation of support through a community organisation or organisations that can maintain and service the cultural exchange and friendship relationships.

The cultural and friendship relationships can be the cement that holds the relationship together.

Without such support, effective relations with China will prove to be difficult.

Casey's Jennie Lee led by example

Teaching young people to be master of their own destinies.

Back at her old stomping ground, Jennie, right, with conference delegate, Merle Hall at the Robert Burns statue in Bendigo Gallery during the 2003 national conference.



MUNICIPAL director, Australian Sister Cities Association life member, youth worker, and mentor, Jennie Lee, began her career teaching sport, drama and callisthenics at a private school.

By nature of her work Jennie was involved with young people, but could see wider needs for some youngsters about her.

She took up work in a State Government institution and began working with and helping young offenders.

Perhaps this set the scene for a contribution to Australian youth on a large scale.

Jennie was born and grew up in Adelaide, but her sights were set further afield and she went where her work would take her. This meant a position with the Community Youth Support Scheme (CYSS) at Bendigo.

Through this work Jennie, being Jennie, was out on the streets among the young people in her community as a role model teaching comportance, giving-comfort, and where needed a degree of discipline.

Those who know her would be aware that assertiveness and discipline would have also been applied where necessary.

She helped out of work young women develop personal well being, and to raise their self-esteem and motivation.

Clearly Jennie could see a strong need and she was soon on a pathway that put her abounding energy into youth.

This has paid off for Jennie, the City of Casey, the Australian Sister Cities Association, and gladly for young people throughout Australia.

During the early 1980s she was selected as part of a State Government delegation to Osaka, Japan, to discuss ideas on youth programs.

To this she contributed strongly and in turn brought much home. She worked as a research officer for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation and later moved to Frankston where she worked with the Dandenong Westernport Young Women's Christian Association.

Through the 80s it was evident, particularly in the City of Berwick that the demographic wave was growing more intense. Young families were moving in by the hundreds only to later become thousands and part of this was a large juvenile sector.

Forward thinkers saw a concerning development - what was to happen to all these young people in an environment that had few jobs for teenagers?

Among these planners was the young Jennie Lee.

She was reported as saying: "With its rapid population growth, young people in the City of Berwick don't have the social venues that more established areas have.

"Just to go to a cinema, they need transport to Frankston or Glen Waverley.

"Many kids come home from school and there is nobody home.

"In some cases they have to be taught how to get out and do things for themselves, but in this respect it is important that young people have a say in how things are done for them," Jennie said.

How to deal with this emerging tiro population was a challenge to planners and the record shows that even from early in her career in government, local government, and through the Australian Sister Cities Association, Jennie Lee was a leader among those planners.

Her work had not gone unnoticed and former Berwick mayor John Byron, who was also the Australian Sister Cities Association president asked Jennie to look at the establishment of a youth component for the national sister cities organisation.

She became national youth adviser for ASCA and did this with gusto.

Jennie travelled to interstate groups where she helped young people set up their own youth groups in one form or another, but with a sister cities base.

With her advice and encouragement they established

gram run by young people for young people and it still operates, as Casey Youth Ambassadors. The group soon after it began, won the Australian Sister Cities Association Best Youth Project Award. Youth involvement at ASCA became infectious and groups were quickly established all over Australia.

After 10 years as youth adviser Jennie handed the job over. The youth group presented her with a photograph album of pictures taken during her decade of service as youth adviser and she was this year made a life member of the Australian Sister Cities Association.

During the early 1990s local government was thrown into turmoil with restructure of councils in Victoria, but while many senior officers lost their jobs Jennie took on wider responsibility and became the director of community services for the new and growing City of Casey.

She continued her work for ASCA and it was one of her protégés Kerani Abraham, who took over the role of youth adviser.

After Kerani the job went to another of the ambassadors group Rebecca Scullion. Jennie worked at developing closer ties with China and visited that country during her annual holidays with the view of setting up youth exchanges.

She recently resigned from the ASCA committee, but still maintains a keen interest in sister cities, with a loving eye on young people she sees moving forward through the pathways she established.

Her department at the City of Casey is bigger than many Victorian councils so it goes without saying that Jennie Lee has a full life.

Australian Sister Cities Association life member

a national youth conference conducted alongside the annual national sister cities conference.

Jennie was later elected to the national committee on which she served for several years.

Mr Byron began by asking her to set up a group in the City of Berwick and although this was a big ask, resulted in the formation of the Sister Cities Youth Ambassadors Berwick Australia (SCYABA).

Jennie described this as a pro-



Australian Sister Cities Association president Cr Kevin Hill presented Jennie with her ASCA life membership certificate during a meeting of the national executive in Melbourne on Saturday 26 August 2006.



Jennie, centre, with from left: Casey delegates to the Bendigo conference in 2003 Geoff Considine, Marion Considine, former New Zealand Sister Cities national president the late Jeremy Dwyer, and Marilyn Dwyer.

Sport a catalyst for culture

LATROBE City's sister cities sports exchange has been hailed a huge success after 26 young Latrobe City ambassadors returned from Takasago, Japan.

Since the inception of Latrobe's program and formal signing of agreements with Takasago in Japan and Taizhou in China, more than 500 young people from Latrobe City have experienced Japanese and/or Chinese culture through exchanges with our sister cities.

Latrobe City's International Relations program intends to serve many purposes, including broadening a range of existing cultural, sporting, educational, youth and economic exchange opportunities and to establish a lasting friendly relationship. There is no doubt that the recent trip to Takasago met several of the objectives. The exchange started on Saturday 15 January when 14 soccer players and 12 basketball players left Melbourne for Japan. They were accompanied by five adults, coaches and managers for the trip, and with Latrobe City's manager market-

ing and communications Grantley Switzer and international relations officer Yuki Poole.

The young people participating were chosen in conjunction with the Latrobe City Energy girls U/14 basketball side and the Gippsland Soccer League U/14 boys representative side.

Grantley said an overnight stay in Singapore was followed by the touring party's arrival in Japan on Tuesday 17 January.

He said visits to Osaka, Himeji and Hiroshima formed part of the itinerary, but most of the group's time was spent in Takasago.

"This included a two-night 'home stay', which provided the children with a closer insight into how the Japanese live," Grantley said.

Soccer player Robert Bruzzese said going to Japan has got to be one of the best experiences that he's ever had.

"The thing that I really liked about this trip to Japan was that not only did we get

to see first hand, what Japanese soccer at our age is like and get to test our skills against Japanese soccer players at our age.

"We also got to learn about the Japanese culture, the best way possible, by actually going to Japan.

"We did many things while we were in Japan, but some of the more memorable times were, staying with my host family, walking around in the cities of Japan, going on the bullet train, playing soccer, visiting a Japanese temple and castle, and visiting Japanese students at school," Robert said.

Basketballer Jessica Bates said Japan was a fantastic place and she would love to return.

"The weather was amazing and we experienced a couple of days with some light snow," Jessica said.

"We learnt about the currency, used chopsticks, ate traditional food and saw some traditional dancing.

"We went to many places like Himeji cas-

tle, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, sightseeing around Osaka and it seems like we went to every train station in Japan.

"I also enjoyed the shopping, especially in Singapore.

"My most favourite part of the trip was the time I spent with my host family.

"They were so generous and caring and they took me in as one of their own," Jessica said.

The travellers conveyed their thanks to the coaches and managers, to Grantley and Yuki, the sponsors - TruEnergy Yallourn, Australian Paper, Loy Yang Power and Flight Centre Traralgon; and everyone else who made their trip happen.

While there was a significant contribution made by council in terms of funding the trip, the majority of the trip was funded through corporate sponsorship, individual contributions and other fundraising initiatives such as an auction night, raffles, and chocolate drives.

Whitehorse and Matsudo celebrate 35 years



Signing the continuing agreement. Mayors Toshihisa and Ellis, watched by Whitehorse chief executive Noelene Duff.

THE City of Whitehorse has celebrated a 35 year sister city relationship with the City of Matsudo, Japan.

The two cities confirmed their long friendship during a gala dinner held in the Box Hill Town Hall, on Friday 12 May. Whitehorse mayor Sharon Ellis said the former City of Box Hill established the link during 1971 and the new City of Whitehorse continued the agreement after Victorian local government restructure. Matsudo mayor Toshihisa Kawai expressed warm thanks to Cr Ellis for her council's hospitality.

"It is a great pleasure to have this bond of friendship between our great cities.

"I am deeply moved to realise that we have had 35 years of friendship.

"My wish is that our friendship prevails in order to help ensure everlasting peace.

"We have received a warm welcome," he said.

Australian Sister Cities Assoc-

iation secretary Margaret Evans presented a letter of congratulation from ASCA president Cr Kevin Hill to Cr Ellis. The letter congratulated both cities on the 35th anniversary of their sister city relationship.

"ASCA recognises the benefits in sister city relationships and the advantage to both communities in learning different cultures and customs of each other's countries.

"I am sure during the 35 year relationship both cities have

shared many wonderful experiences and life long friendships which will be treasured forever."

The mayors re signed and confirmed their sister city declaration and exchanged city to city gifts.

Mayor Toshihisa Kawai and Matsudo Municipal Assembly chairperson Sadamori Matsui presented each guest at the dinner with a happi coat and the Matsudo guests performed a Japanese folksong and dance.

Wollongong visits

WOLLONGONG has two sister city relationships, one with Kawasaki Japan, and the other with Ohrid Macedonia and a friendship city relationship with Longyan in the Fujian province of China. A friendship city relationship with Yogyakarta in Indonesia is also planned.

In July this year we reinforced these international ties by accepting an invitation from the Mayor of Ohrid to attend the 2006 Balkan Festival of Songs and Dances and the Ohrid Summer Festival.

The delegation consisted of the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Deputy Lord Mayor, chief executive, the council's Aboriginal Services community worker and an indigenous dance group.

The dance group performed at six arts concerts in Macedonia and received an overwhelming response at each.

The group also performed at the closing ceremony of the 2006 Balkans Festival of Songs and Dances and the opening ceremony of the Ohrid Summer Festival.

Macedonia is the largest multicultural community in

Wollongong and this visit was extremely important in cementing links between our two countries.

The delegation was also a unique cultural exchange for both the indigenous dancers and the people of Macedonia. In early August we also strengthened relations with our friendship city, welcoming six delegates from the Standing Committee of Longyan Municipal People's Congress, China.

Delegates included the vice chairman Mr Li Xiangsheng and the director of Longyan City Construction and Environment Protection Committee Mr Zheng Baoning.

Now we're busy getting ready to welcome a group of children from our Japanese sister city, Kawasaki.

The delegation will include winners of the annual Kawasaki Junior Cultural Prize; an art and essay competition now in its 15th year. This event has been continually sponsored by the Kawasaki Shinkin Bank and is a hotly contested competition throughout the junior schools in Kawasaki with more than 3000 entries received each year.

Ermera friends to build school

EAST Timor English language teacher Felix de Jesus Martins, spent four weeks with the City of Casey on a four week professional development and fund raising tour.

Mr Martins is from Ponilala, in the Ermera District of East Timor.

He is a volunteer and leads a group of five volunteer teachers who are paid only what the parents can afford, usually US\$20 a month.

They have set up a junior secondary school for years seven, eight, and nine in the church hall at Ponilala.

They have 63 year seven and eight students and from October this year will take in another group of year seven students.

His development program included visits to schools to observe and participate in teaching English, opportunities to select English language teaching materials suitable for his school, and the opportunity for intensive practice at speaking English.

Felix was welcomed to Casey's friendship schools and kindergartens where he met with student

groups and teachers, spoke at assemblies, spoke to parent gatherings and took part in planning meetings with principals and teachers.

He also had the opportunity to work in the classrooms with experienced teachers to observe the use of teaching and learning, plus student management strategies.

Felix saw a variety of English language teaching materials from which he selected those most suitable for use in his school and other secondary schools in Ermera. The Casey Friends of Ermera have received a detailed proposal requesting funds to supply the materials to build a junior high school at Ponilala. The cost for materials, a skilled labourer and some basic food to feed the workers is \$15,000.

The Casey Friends of Ermera have raised more than half the amount and expect to reach the target.

Donations towards building the Ponilala Junior High School can be made to Jan Trezise on 03 5944 4676 or email: gjtrezise@e-vision.com.au All donations are tax deductible.

Jan Teasdale at Capitol Hill

AS part of the three day Sister Cities International 50th anniversary conference in Washington DC from Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 July 2006, 156 groups of attending delegates visited Capitol Hill in Washington DC to discuss the importance of the Sister Cities Exchange Initiative with specific members of the American Congress.

Since 9/11 there has been strong bipartisan support for greatly expanding international exchange programs. The support is essential to both the American national security and foreign policy objectives.

The sister city network can be a key partner with the Department of State in achieving a very significant expansion in international exchange opportunities.

The groups each invited their member of congress to support the draft legislation, which was given to them during the 20 minute visit.

The objective of Sister Cities International (SCI) was to obtain passage of the draft legislation in the first session of the new Congress that would convene in January 2007, asking that it

stand on its own merits and to go through the normal Congressional process of enactment to law.

The legislation will provide seed grants to communities to accomplish the following over a five year period.

"Create 4320 international citizen exchange opportunities through sister cities international network each year.

"Reach to Islamic communities annually targeting 500 Islamic exchanges.

"Significantly enhance the community based capacity of SCI network.

"Promote and prepare youth involvement. In citizen diplomacy, we were asking for their support and hoped that this would take the form of sponsorship. During the 50 years since President Eisenhower founded the Sister Cities International organization for citizen diplomacy, more than 700 US communities have partnered with more than 1800 international communities in 134 countries. One of their goals is to help create a more peaceful and just world. The events of the past few weeks underscore the necessity of understanding each other.



Australian Sister Cities Association vice president Jan Teasdale joined a group of delegates from Texas for a visit to the Capitol Hill office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee where they met with Special Legislative Counsel / Special Assistant to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee Johannes Tseha. From left: Pat Cappalletti, Fort Worth, Texas, Chris Kallas, Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan Teasdale, Perth Western Australia, Angelika Smith - Lange, Houston Sister Cities Committee, Texas, Johannes Tseha, group leader and president of Houston Sister Cities Committee, Ellen Goldberg, Houston, Texas, Rose Gunji, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Wolfgang Schmidt, of Houston, Texas.

Every town needs a Jessie

By John Green

EVERY city needs at least one Jessie. Every sister city relationship needs a driving force behind it.

In the case of the Gore, New Zealand and Tamworth New South Wales relationship, this is a five foot dynamo named Jessie McChlery Tytler.

Jessie has been an inspiration and a dedicated supporter of the sister city relationship between the two places she loves.

This is the City of Tamworth in Australia and the town of Gore in the Southland region of the South Island of New Zealand.

She has made Gore her home and has been able to keep memories of Tamworth by having the only 'Aussie' styled home in the town.

She even named her house 'Tamworth'. For the past 25 years, Jessie has crossed the Tasman every January on her annual pilgrimage to the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Over these years, she created a network of friends and supporters within the country music fraternity of Australia and New Zealand.

She is an active member of the Gore Country Music Club which conducts the annual NZ Gold Guitar Awards over the Queens Birthday long weekend in June. Jessie is a tireless supporter of New Zealand Country Music and the working force behind the New Zealand Showcase. The showcase has now become an annual event in the Tamworth Festival allowing New Zealand artists to display their abundant talents. Jessie has regularly attended the Tamworth festival since 1981.

She has never missed a festival in that time despite droughts and threatening floods.

Jessie early recognised the potential for establishing a sister city relationship between Tamworth and Gore.

This potential was based on her love of country music and the similarity then between the two festivals.

She strongly lobbied the councils of Tamworth and Gore for the establishment of a formal agreement.

It was Jessie's strong lobbying that put into place the annual exchange of country

music queens. This first exchange happened in 1990 when radio station 2TM, the then organiser of the festival, announced that the prize for the winner in that year would be travelling to the Gold Guitar awards in Gore, New Zealand.

Since then, these exchanges have continued.

In July 1992, Jessie was able to convince the then truck racing mayor of Gore, Ian Tulloch and the agricultural machinery dealing mayor of Tamworth, David John to get their councils to agree to and sign a formal sister city agreement.

In the following January 1993, Jessie's efforts were officially recognised when at a civic reception held in Tamworth to welcome the New Zealand Country Music Queen, it was announced that she had been appointed by the Tamworth City Council as their special ambassador to

Gore. A badge was presented to her at this reception which she has worn proudly on all visits to Tamworth.

This award must have sparked Jessie into further action because it was at the 1997 festival that Jessie brought her first tour group to the Tamworth festival from the Southland Region of New Zealand. These tour groups became affectionately known as 'Jessies group'.

They have become an integral part of the Tamworth festival.

In recognition of the importance of these groups, the Tamworth Backpackers will be renamed Gore House for the 2007 festival.

For the past nine years, Jessie has organised friends, musicians and music lovers into groups of between 15 and 36 to come to Tamworth and share her love of the atmosphere and music of the famous festival.



From left: Tamworth Country Music Queen (2005-2006), Emma Bock, Jessie McChlery Tytler, and Gore Country Music Ambassador (2005-2006) Lisa Rogen at the Gore New Zealand Country Music Festival in June 2005.

The tour group comes to attend the opening concert and stay for the full 10 days until the last roundup is held.

Jessie was also instrumental in establishing the official protocol between Tamworth and Gore.

This document sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two communities in relation to civic exchanges and the exchange of the country music queens.

Jessie has also been a long time dedicated member of the Gore Country Music club.

Her tireless work in the Gore District has seen the recent establishment of a Tamworth garden and the creation of a country music statue which prominently recognises Tamworth as their sister city. She has been a judge in the Gore New Zealand Country Music Festival as well as taking on the role of an organiser of the Gore NZ Showcase at the Tamworth festival.

In December 2005, the Gore District Council officially recognised the work Jessie had put into their community by holding a civic reception in her honour and presenting her with a special civic award.

It is the tireless workers behind the scenes like Jessie as she is affectionately known who make sister city relationships such as the one between Tamworth and Gore work so effectively.

In January 2006, the Tamworth Sister City Committee with the support of the Tamworth Regional Council held a civic reception to recognise her efforts in Tamworth.

At this function Jessie was presented with a special gold brooch in recognition of her dedication and support to the relationship between Gore and Tamworth.

Unfortunately due to ill health and a battle with cancer, Jessie announced that she would no longer be making her annual pilgrimages. Thankfully, in true Jessie style, she has made arrangements to ensure that the tour groups, musicians and songwriters will continue to exchange between the two communities.

She has encouraged school visits and has overseen the relationship between her two beloved cities grow in strength and maturity over the past 25 years.