

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It seems no time ago when we were enjoying a wonderful event in Blacktown to celebrate the 2015 Annual Conference.

Since then so many things have taken place and I guess one could say the decision taken by the NSW

Government would have to be to the top of the list as the most unpopular. In light of recent backflips by this same government perhaps they would care to do the same with the forced amalgamations? Many of our Members have been very adversely affected and it is going to take some considerable time effort and education to ensure the good work continues.

It is surely apparent that the wonderful work done by thousands around the world in the name of Sister Cities is now needed more than ever. Nothing will ever replace people to people relations and the ability to shake the hand of a friend.

I would hope that you are all aware of our event in Melbourne to be held on 9th December from 11am

culminating with our AGM at 1:30. The venue is the Melbourne Town Hall. There will be a featured presentation and we invite you to be our guest for lunch.

With no Conference this year we are looking forward to 2017 with great anticipation. Does your community have an interest in being Conference Host. Should you answer in the affirmative I would urge you to be in touch in the next few weeks as the venue will be determined at our Executive meeting in December.

Have an interesting story to tell. Why not share it with us either in a format for our newsletter or on our Facebook page. It is always interesting and exciting to see what others are up to and you may learn something that is useful in your own program. I would also request that you invite your friends to share our FB page so that our message may be more widely appreciated.

Executive Member Mrs Sim Hayward will be attending a Chinese Friendship Conference in Chongquin, China during November and we wish her a safe and successful trip.

Looking forward to sharing with you all in a few weeks but in closing I must thank all my Executive Members for their continued support and assistance.

May your God be with you and may your World be one of peace.

Bill

SCA SPECIAL NOTICE

Special event, including the Annual General Meeting

The President and members of the executive committee invite you to join us for a special event, in lieu of an annual conference, which also includes the SCA Annual General Meeting. This is your chance to meet the committee and also to enjoy our guest presenter.

WHEN: Friday, December 9, 2016

WHERE: Melbourne Room, Level 2 Melbourne Town Hall, Cnr Collins & Swanston Streets, Melbourne, Vic.

START TIME: 10:00am

AGM START: 13:30pm

LUNCH will be provided to enjoy as you network

RSVP: by Friday 18th November for logistical and catering requirements by clicking [Reply to RSVP](#).

SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM CAIRNS

Cairns receives visitors from their Japanese Sister Cities

Two groups of students from Cairns' Sister Cities in Japan visited our tropical paradise in August.



A group of 28 Junior High students and four teachers from Oyama arrived on Thursday 18 August, followed the next day by a group of 12 Junior High students from Minami accompanied by two teachers.

The groups were greeted by Cairns Mayor Bob Manning and Sister Cities Ambassador Ms Sim Hayward who hosted the groups for a civic reception which was attended by Japanese Consul Hirotsugu Ikeda.

"It is always a very special thing to meet with young representatives from our Sister Cities, eager to learn about Cairns and to further strengthen the friendship between our cities," Mayor Bob Manning said.

"Those students are future business leaders, diplomats and decision makers.

"I've been lucky enough to meet with the Mayors of both Minami and Oyama and it is clear that they each

value their Sister City relationship with Cairns."

Ms Hayward said the experience had long-term benefits for all the cities.

"The students will talk about their experiences in Cairns with their friends and families; and they will hopefully in years to come return to visit our shores with their own families and encourage others to do the same," she said.

"They will perpetuate friendship, education and business links between our cities and our nations. And that is what is so wonderful about the Sister Cities program."

During their six-day stay, the Minami students took the opportunity to visit the Cairns Tropical Zoo, visited local schools and the village of Kuranda. The students were hosted by families of students at Trinity Bay State High School where they engaged on a study tour for two days.

During their week-long stay, the Oyama students visited the Cairns Tropical Zoo, Cairns Botanical Gardens and Green Island. The students were hosted by families of students from Cairns State High School where they joined classes for two days.



SCA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM HAWKSBURY CITY

Student Exchange – An Experience of a Lifetime

For over 25 years students of Hawkesbury City have had the opportunity to participate in an international student exchange coordinated by the Hawkesbury Sister City Association (HSCA) on behalf of Hawkesbury City Council.

Currently 11 lucky Hawkesbury students are living and experiencing life in one of Hawkesbury City's two international sister cities – Kyotamba, Japan or Temple City, USA. During their four week visit the students live with a local family, attend local high

schools and go on sightseeing excursion organised by the host sister city association.

Students in Japan have ridden the Shinkansen (bullet train), visited Hiroshima where they spent time at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park taking in the A-Bomb Dome, Children's' Peace Monument, and the Peace Memorial Museum. While in Hiroshima the



Sightseeing in Japan

students also went to picturesque Miyajima Island with the distinctive red torii gates of the UNESCO World Heritage Itsukushima Shrine. With Kyoto, the students have had the opportunity to visit some of the historic sites of Japan's ancient capital, including Kinkaku-ji – the amazing 'Golden Pavilion' with its gold leaf coating.

Meanwhile the Hawkesbury students in America have experience a baseball game, a visit to Disneyland, an overnight excursion to the San Bernardino Mountains, and a day at Universal Studios.

Earlier this year HSCA hosted the inbound students from Temple City and Kyotamba. The visiting students stayed with local Hawkesbury families and experienced our Australian lifestyle and local schools. HSCA took the students to Sydney and Manly, the Blue Mountains, and Canberra visiting Parliament House, Questacon, the National Museum, and the War Memorial where they witnessed the Last Post Ceremony. Local excursions

included a visit to South Windsor Public School, patting koalas and kangaroos at Featherdale, a visit to St Matthew's Primary School and a sausage sizzle at Pugh's Lagoon.



Visit to the Blue Mountains

All students participating in the program are ambassadors for their cities and are required to make speeches on their arrival in the sister city they are visiting. As part of this ambassadorial role the Hawkesbury, Kyotamba and Temple City students were introduced at a meeting of Hawkesbury City Council and presented with certificates of participation by newly elected Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman and Councillor Barry Calvert.

Applications for the 2017 Hawkesbury Student Exchange delegations are now open, and close on Monday 31st October 2016. Application forms, exchange criteria and details are available from the HSCA website – www.hasca.org.au.



Fun at Disneyland

More information available from Tina Tallack, President HSCA – phone: 0412 700 456 or email: hawkesburyscapresident@outlook.com.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE USA

US City of Toledo seeks an Australian Sister City

Toledo, Ohio, on the Great Lakes in America's mid-west, and home of the legendary Jeep, is actively seeking a sister city relationship with an Australian city. As one of the pioneers of the Sister City set-up internationally Toledo has links with every continent except Australia.

"Our historic links with Australia in peace and war, plus our common heritage though language makes this quest a priority," said Toledo Sister Cities president, Jim Hartung. "We have been in existence for more than 60 years, with active links to our

namesake city of Toledo, Spain, and further links with Toyohashi in Japan as well as cities in Germany, Hungary, Pakistan, China, Poland, Tanzania, Lebanon and Brazil. "We even have an Australian on our executive committee who can help with any language or translation difficulties!" Mr Hartung said.

While not necessarily vital, Toledo hopes that it could link with a city of similar size to its 300,000 population and, like Toledo, perhaps a port city, Mr Hartung added. Historically the city has Australian



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links dating back to World War 2 when GIs stationed in Australia met and married Australian girls and brought them back to Toledo.

In many ways the standard of living and way-of-life in Toledo is similar to that of many Australian cities of similar size, particularly in the agricultural and farming hinterland with small towns and main streets in those areas easily translatable to either country.

The resultant link would bring about such things as student exchanges and strengthen the bonds that already exist between the two countries, Mr Hartung said. Further information or contact can be made through: Toledo Sister Cities International at www.toledosistercities.org or contact Lindsay Smith by email at lsmithaussie@bex.net

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](#). 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

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Executive Member - Sim Hayward

Mobile: 0417 784 341

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Executive Member - Mike Jakins

Mobile: 0417 176 568

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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](#)

[Submit a story \(plus up to 4 images\)](#)

[Opt out of receiving the Newsletter](#)

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.