



AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION FROM THE ASCA NEWSDESK

November 2007

If you wish to receive the newsletter directly please email the Secretary, Margaret Evans at mevans@hobsonsby.vic.gov.au to be included on the email distribution list.

NEW ASCA EXECUTIVE 2007-2009

I am pleased to announce the new ASCA Committee for the period 2007-2009:

- Ald Bill Wilson, President (TAS)
- Ms Jan Teasdale, Vice-President (WA)
- Ms Margaret Evans, National Secretary (VIC)
- Mr Caisley Graham, National Treasurer (NSW)
- Cr Ray Kelly, Executive Committee Member (QLD)
- Cr Robert Bell, Executive Committee Member (NSW)
- Mr Peter Filmer, Executive Committee (NSW)

Councillor Kevin Hill retired from the position of President, however he was acknowledged considerably throughout the conference for his dedication and enthusiasm during his time on the Executive. Mark Brady, who did not renominate was also thanked for his work on the strategic plan and sponsorship submissions.

The new Executive looks forward in working together to achieve a good result for the organisation.

2007 ASCA CONFERENCE IN DARWIN – 30 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER

This year's ASCA Conference was held in Darwin from 30 September – 3 October with the theme "Making the Connection". Delegates worked well in the various workshops offered and also participated in the annual CLAIR forum which was held on the last day of the conference.

The Youth Program was also well attended and their interaction with the adult delegates was a good way of both adults and young people working together to achieve a number of similar objectives relating to sister cities with particular emphasis on networking with others from other parts of Australia.

2007 was a time for celebrating with the 25th anniversary of the Australian Sister Cities Association, Darwin City Council being 50 years old and also Darwin's 25th anniversary of the signing of their first sister city agreement in 1982 and so these significant events were celebrated during the course of the conference.

The Executive would like to thank the Darwin Conference Committee for their work in producing a well organised and informative conference.

NEXT CONFERENCE – GOSFORD NSW – 27 JULY – 30 JULY 2008

Work has already commenced on the next conference which will be held in Gosford, NSW from Sunday, 27 July to Wednesday, 30 July 2008 (finishing at 12.30 pm on the 30th).

The Gosford City Council gave an enticing presentation to delegates at this year's conference announcing the theme as "Sense of Place" and the venue to be at the Mantra Ettalong Beach in Gosford. Stay tuned for more information in our next Edition of Sister Cities News or if you require details now please contact Tina Davies on (02) 4325 8958 or email tina.davies@gosford.nsw.gov.au

CHANGE OF NAME TO SISTER CITIES AUSTRALIA

At this year's Annual General Meeting it was resolved that the Australian Sister Cities Association Inc. change its name to Sister Cities Australia and the Constitution be changed to reflect the name change.

Since then, and during the process of changing the name with the Department of Consumer Affairs in Victoria it was noted that a change of name cannot be done at an annual general meeting and only at a "general" or "special" meeting. This was very disappointing however the Executive will need to adhere to this advice and now conduct a "special" meeting prior to the next AGM in Gosford next year.

ASCA's STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

As ASCA's 2004-2007 Strategic Plan expires at the end of this year, a session was held during the Darwin conference to seek input and comment on developing the plan for the period 2008-2013.

The session was attended by about 20 delegates and the Executive wishes to thank all those who participated. The Executive will now compile all the information captured and discuss at their next Executive meeting and report back to members at the next conference.

ANNUAL NATIONAL AWARDS

Each year at ASCA's annual conference a very important part in the program is the announcements of the national awards. This year there were eleven cities covering twenty-one categories, and the winners are:

Award Category	Winner
1. Community Involvement	Casey, VIC
2. Youth Project	Manly, NSW
3. Youth Achievers Program	No entries received
4. Cultural Exchange	Manly, NSW
5. Assistance to a Sister City	No entries received
6. Sports Project	Casey, VIC
7. New Affiliation	No entries received
8. Tourism Project	Belmont, WA
9. Commerce and Industry	Latrobe, VIC
10. Best Publicity by Print Media	Bundaberg, QLD
11. Single Project	Coffs Harbour, NSW
12. Overall Program	Frankston, VIC

To win an award gives cities a great sense of pride and the work achieved by many people including volunteers to prepare an award entry is challenging and also reflects the dedication and commitment that goes into maintaining a sister city relationship. We thank all cities for taking the time to document their sister city activities which are entered into the 2007 ASCA National Awards.

All corporate members of ASCA are mailed a copy of the ASCA National Awards Handbook during January of each year, which includes important dates, essential criteria and how to submit your entry. Activities eligible for entry must take place between 1 July 2007 to 31 March 2008. For further information please contact Jan Teasdale, Chairman National Awards Committee on Email: jandale@inet.net.au or Mobile: 0407 442 136.

ROCKINGHAM SINGS AT GEISHA FESTIVAL IN AKO, JAPAN

The Rockingham City Children's Choir is travelling to Ako, Japan in December to sing at the Geisha Festival at Harmony Hall with the Ako Children's Choir and the Ako Citizens Choir. The choir will also perform at two schools, an aged persons home and in the main shopping centre. The choir has fund raised very hard and Council has contributed \$25,000 towards their costs.

WOLLONGONG TO PARTICIPATE IN KAWASAKI'S 6TH SISTER CITIES & FRIENDSHIP CITIES INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXCHANGE SYMPOSIUM – DECEMBER 2007

Once every 5 years since 1987, the Kawasaki Board of Education invites its Sister Cities and Friendship Cities to Kawasaki City to participate in an International Educational Exchange Symposium. Participants will attend from Baltimore (US), Rijeka (Croatia), Bucheon (Korea) and Shenyang (China). The aim of the symposium is to gather education professionals as a way to build on friendship and mutual understanding by exchanging information on issues involved with education and children, report on efforts made to resolve any issues relating to this and to discuss the nature of children in each city and what education should be like in the 21st century. The City of Wollongong will be represented by Ms Monica Watt, Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School at the Illawarra Grammar School. Wollongong was also represented in 2002.

FEATURES IN SISTER CITIES NEWS

Members are encouraged to send any sister city related articles along with photographs, if available, to ASCA's Sister Cities News Editor, Jim Mynard on email mynard@nex.net.au who will be happy to include them in a forthcoming edition of the newspaper. This is a great way to show off and share the exciting sister city activities and programs conducted within your city. Ideally the Sister Cities News Editor would appreciate articles from all over Australia.

Paid advertisements may also be placed in Sister Cities News at very reasonable rates.

From the ASCA Executive