

SCA National Awards 2019
Entry Form for Category 5 – Overall Program
Program Summary
Bundaberg Regional Council

Anniversaries are significant milestones in any relationship and 2018 marked a 20 year milestone in the Sister City relationship between Nanning, China and Bundaberg, Australia.

The Sister Cities both expressed a determination to ensure the 20 year anniversary was suitably observed and recognised the strength of the union that had evolved over the previous two decades.

Bundaberg and Nanning both proposed visits in 2018 with a Nanning delegation visiting in May, on the precise date of the 20 year anniversary and a Bundaberg delegation visiting Nanning later that year.

The overarching aims associated with the 20 year celebrations was to acknowledge how far the relationship had progressed, to honour each other for the dignified and courteous manner in which the relationship had been observed and to thank each other for the gifts, the goodwill and the respect offered in furthering international relationships between our two countries.

This was achieved through reciprocal visits, the unveiling of the refurbished Nanning Gardens, hosting of a civic reception and escorted tours of the Bundaberg Region to demonstrate the capacity and potential of the region. Nanning responded with remarkable generosity during a return visit by a Bundaberg delegation. Opportunities for producers from the Bundaberg Region to engage with the Nanning traders and community were made readily available as were the guided tours and numerous meetings and consultation with industry and market leaders. The 20 year anniversary was a watershed year in achieving pivotal trade and investment outcomes through the strength of our Sister City alliance.

Several activities were organized to mark this milestone. A delegation travelled from Nanning, China for the anniversary celebrations on 12 May 2018. During their stay the delegation participated in an official opening of the refurbished Nanning Gardens, a 20th anniversary celebration dinner and a tour of the Bundaberg Region.

Later that year in September a delegation led by Mayor Jack Dempsey travelled to Nanning as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations and to reciprocate the visit to Bundaberg. Owing to the importance of the 20 year anniversary the Nanning Foreign Affairs Office invited the Bundaberg Region to hold a display in the HangYang Shopping Centre, one of the prominent shopping centres in Nanning. This was an opportunity to showcase what the Bundaberg Region had to offer to a massive audience.

Our 20th anniversary celebrations further cemented the great rapport that exists between Bundaberg and Nanning.

Both community leaders, during the many formal and informal community gatherings held in association with the 20 year anniversary, spoke in glowing terms of the importance of the relationship and the role of the Sister Cities program in reaching across boundaries and providing bridges to understanding and outcomes far in excess of any benefits derived through economic means.