

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER



Welcome to the latest edition of the Sister Cities Australia Newsletter. My name is Greg McCallum and very pleased to have been appointed as an Executive Board Member of Sister Cities Australia. I am the International Links & Sister Cities Co-ordinator at Blacktown Council in Western Sydney – one of the largest local government authorities in Australia.

My working background has been varied. Initially a primary school teacher, I refereed Rugby League and was fortunate to be offered a position of Referees Director in the United Kingdom where I worked and lived for 7 years. It was during that period that I experienced a variety of communities – culturally, educationally and of course sporting in places all over Europe. It was this life change that sparked my interest in how people and communities exist and can interact for the positive benefit of all.

Blacktown has a population of 403,000 people, being the largest Council in New South Wales. We have people from 188 different birthplaces. Top 5 countries of origin include Philippines, India, New Zealand, Fiji and England and 182 languages spoken. Blacktown is a diverse City in every regard.

As International Links & Sister Cities Co-ordinator, I oversee a long standing, energetic and wide- ranging program. Blacktown has formal Sister Cities with Porirua (NZ), Su-Seong Gu (South Korea), Liverpool Plains (Northern NSW), Liaocheng (China) and with the League of Cities (Philippines). Our program is strongly supported by the Mayor and Councillors who see strong cultural, sporting and educational links and opportunities

important to the City, particularly for the youth who will be the future community leaders.

A solid business and economic program operates alongside the Sister Cities activities. In recent years a Mayoral led delegation of small business operators travelled to Su-Seong Gu in South Korea and was able to have open access to business there due to the excellent relationships and protocols developed over 28 years of the Sister Cities agreement. More recently with a focus on International Links a similar business delegation travelled to India and forged strong business connections.

Our relationships closer to home are equally important with opportunities for our young people travelling for events in Quirindi and other towns within Liverpool Plains Shire. Our strong Maori and South Pacific community ensures our Sister City in Porirua New Zealand is always foremost in important events such as Waitangi Day and The Matariki Festival.

Whilst the recent Covid-19 Pandemic had significant impact on our activities and in-coming delegations we have continued to maintain contact and are now well and truly looking ahead to re-invigorate our activities with educational groups, sporting and cultural. Post Pandemic all countries and communities around the world are in similar stages of recovery. Resilience and determination to re-connect must be foremost in our approach. Hopefully the reliance on technology to communicate throughout the Pandemic will sit alongside face to face activities and the outcome will be strong Sister Cities relationships and programs moving forward.

I look forward to meeting as many people involved in the many wonderful International Links and Sister Cities programs around Australia as we emerge undaunted and strong.

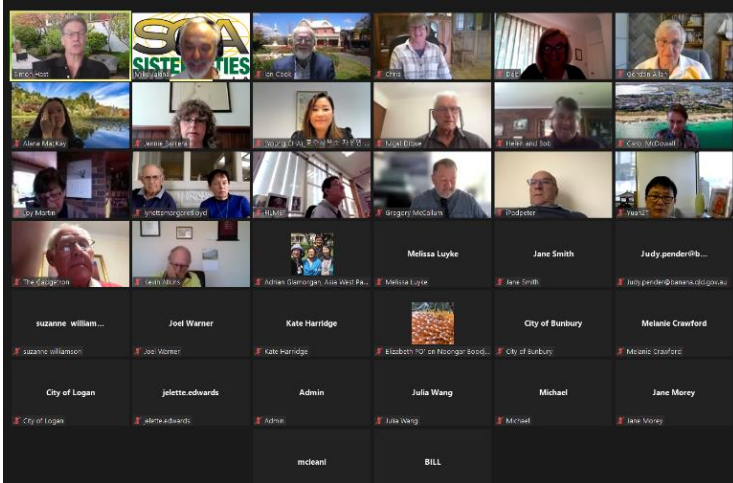
Thank you, Greg McCallum.

What's making this issue great?

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UPDATE ON SCA PLANS FOR 2022*

* SCA On-Line Forum Review



WOW! What a very special event this was, and a number of thank you's need to go out to some special people:

- 1) SCA's own Gordon Allen for pulling together the program, organising the speakers and getting all the resources together.
- 2) Our four (4) amazing presenters – Carol, Greg, Simon and Ian – who all kept us enthralled with their topics and enthusiasm.
- 3) The 35+ (not counting the presenters) attendees who joined us for the session, including a number from our colleagues in New Zealand.
- 4) I'll give myself a little pat on the back for doing some of the organising and playing host for the forum – it was an absolute pleasure.

We have recorded the forum, so anyone that wasn't able to attend can download, or stream, the video from the SCA website. On the same webpage are links to resources

used in the forum by our presenters. These can be found here: <https://www.sistercitiesaustralia.org.au/events-archive/>.

SUMMARISED SESSION DETAILS

Welcome and introductions

Presentation 1 – Carol McDowall (Bunbury, WA)

Jiaying Modern Folk Painting/Noongar Art Exchange project which commenced in late 2018 and went all the way through to mid-2021.

Presentation 2 – Greg McCallum (Blacktown, NSW)

Launch of Korean-Australian Art Display to Celebrate 60 years of Korean Diplomatic relations.

Presentation 3 – Simon Hast (Frankston, Vic)

Strengthening Ties in Challenging Times.

Presentation 4 – Ian Cook (Mildura, Vic)

Maintaining Sister Cities Friendships through COVID restrictions and lockdowns with extra effort.

Summary and close

Because of the success of this session, and following feedback, we are going to plan another online forum before the end of this year. Keep your eyes open for news on the event in your emails and in the September newsletter.

Mike Jakins
SCA National Secretary

* Update on the New SCA Website

As mentioned in the previous couple of newsletters, we have officially launched the new SCA website. There is so much more information on the new site, and it should be much easier to navigate to it. This is **YOUR** website which means that we would value your feedback on:

- *What do you like about the website?*
- *What don't you like about the website?*
- *What other features would you like to see?*

- **MEMBERS** – *have you visited the Members area? If yes, any comments?*
- **MEMBERS** – *is there anything else the Members Area could provide?*

Please send any feedback you have to our Secretary, who also doubles as the webmaster, and we will look at your comments and see what changes and/or improvements we can make. The email address for feedback is mike.jakins@sistercitiesaustralia.org.au.

* SCA National Awards

SCA had not held its National Awards for the past two years, with the competition being resumed in 2022. The one major change for this year only is the eligibility periods for the Awards. Traditionally this had been for a 12 month period but this year we will be making it for the **18 month period from 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2022**. There will also (for this year only) be a special Category 6 – Special Program Award to cover from **1 April 2019 to 30 September 2020**. This will allow member councils to showcase any activity during those time periods and to

highlight the great work done by councils, the volunteers, and the community in furthering the aims of sister cities.

Our SCA members have until July 15 to get their entries in for judging and for their chance to be recognised with an SCA National Award. It is hoped that SCA will be able to present the winners with their trophies at a function later in the year – stay tuned for details as they become available. Good luck to all the entrants!

* Membership Subscriptions

This is just a gentle reminder that SCA has not charged any membership fees since 2019 and all members that were current on June 30, 2020 have automatically been rolled over. Unfortunately our finances can't handle having no income forever and it was decided at the last AGM that membership fees would be reinstated from the end of this financial year.

The membership fees will remain the same as they were in 2019 and the Treasurer will be contacting all members in early July, 2022, with an invoice detailing fees and payment options. Given that Australia is predicted to begin opening soon then we are more than hopeful that you will be able to receive great on-going value for your membership of your association.

EXTRA SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM CHRISTCHURCH, NZ

New international game plan for Christchurch



Australia, the West Coast of the United States, the Guangdong Province of China and the Republic of Korea will be the focus of 'Team Christchurch's' efforts to build stronger international ties.

These destinations have been selected by a group of organisations representing the city's business, trade, tourism and education sectors and the Sister Cities community because of the potential of these connections to the city.

"By focusing our collective efforts on building strong, beneficial relationships with these destinations we are

confident that we can grow the city's economy and attract and develop the best talent and ideas to Christchurch," says Mayor Lianne Dalziel.

"We will still maintain the relationships that we have with our seven Sister Cities, but as we emerge from the earthquake rebuild and the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to maximise our economic recovery and reassert our place as place as New Zealand's second city through more deliberate and targeted international engagement," says Mayor Lianne Dalziel.

"On the advice of a group representing organisations with significant international interests, the Council has agreed that 'Team Christchurch' should focus its collective efforts on building connections within the Guangdong Province of China, the West Coast of the United States and the Republic of Korea. These will be known as our 'City-wide Focus Partnerships'.

"We want to seek to deepen our existing relationships within these destinations through new direct air links, increased business connections and international exports that will help grow our local economy.

“We also want to explore opportunities to collaborate on issues that we have in common, such as how we adapt to climate change and build resilience. We want to share knowledge, attract talent and ideas, and open up opportunities for our residents,” the Mayor says.

On the group’s recommendation, the Council has also designated Australia as a ‘Foundation and Recovery Partner’. This is recognition of the special importance of the trans-Tasman relationship.

“Australia and Australians have always been greatly important to, and valued by, our city. This will be especially the case as ChristchurchNZ, Christchurch International Airport and others work to maximise our city’s COVID -19 recovery in the near to mid-term, while

we await the opening of our borders to other countries ,” the Mayor says.

The organisations who advised the Council on which international destinations to target are all founding members of the International Relations Policy Framework. They include ChristchurchNZ, Ngāi Tahu, the city’s tertiary institutions, Education New Zealand, the Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce, Christchurch International Airport Limited and Lyttelton Port Company, The Asia New Zealand Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Christchurch Foundation and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Reproduced, with kind permission, from Newsline, Christchurch City Council

ADVANCE NOTICE OF A SPECIAL EVENT

Smart Communities Summit 2022 – early notification.



Dates: 8th-10th of November 2022, this is a two-day conference with a pre-conference workshop

Location: Accor Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park

Target market: Local government representatives

Objective: To boost collaborative partnerships and civic engagement while also addressing urban challenges through case studies into the digital innovation in the council’s governance, planning and infrastructure investment.

This conference will run within a larger umbrella event called the ‘Local Government Show 2022’. Within the Local Government Show, there is 4 conferences running parallel to each other, these 4 conferences include Smart Communities Summit, Local Government Parking Summit, Resource Recovery Summit and DigiTech Local Government Summit. This umbrella Local Government Show event allows a larger range of networking for many local government representatives while also allowing specific content for national growth and collaboration.

The impact of technology on society often gets lost in ‘smart’ conversations. To create a smart community, local government leaders must leverage data and technology while also implementing human-centred programmes

that promote civic engagement to help make citizens’ lives better.

Smart Communities Summit refocuses the conversation around the effects of new technologies on people’s everyday lives, jobs, food and mobility, sharing strategies and insights on what technology to deploy and where, for a smart community that works for your people and place.

- 3D printing, IoT, big data, AI, Blockchain, drones, smart grids, meters, sensors, apps – how to navigate established and emerging technologies for a smart community that works for your community.
- Generating big social impact with minimal investment - how to prioritise investment in smart technologies and digital innovation for the well-being of citizens.
- Human-centred, social innovation – involving multiple community stakeholders in planning and implementation from entrepreneurs to academics to ensure collaboration, value and a common responsibility.
- Measuring your ‘ROI’ – how to process the contribution of smart communities to improving the life of people while delivering solutions.
- Using data to educate and shift citizens behaviour and improve environmental sustainability performance.
- The path to resilient communities; anticipate risk, limit impact and bounce back.

- Collaboration across towns, cities and regions.

If you are a local government leader and practitioner working on innovation projects for your community, let Smart Communities help you navigate through all the smart hype to benefit from the ideas, successes, failures, opportunities and creative mindsets of your peers.

SCA will provide further information, including registration, once the website is live which should be in

the next few weeks. There will also be a special discount offer for SCA members!

Sister Cities Australia is proud to be partnering with Quest Events to bring you this interesting and highly informative conference, and the opportunity to network with many of your peers in Local Government.

If you have any questions about the event please contact the SCA National Secretary, [Mike Jakins](#)

DO YOU HAVE A SISTER CITY DAY?

A Novel Way to Celebrate a Sister City Relationship

Did you know that some cities around the world have declared a Sister City Day in order to celebrate their ongoing relationships? Why not explore the possibility of your Council embracing the option of nominating to have a <Name of Sister City> Day declared to be held on the anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement!

This could provide a number of benefits:

- 1) Re-focus councils and communities as to the benefits of the relationship post-COVID.
- 2) Lead to resurrecting interest in 'dormant' relationships.

- 3) Highlight the relationship in a very positive way.
- 4) Provide a day each year that the community can all gather to celebrate the relationship, get to know the sister city's culture much better and explore future options to grow the relationship.
- 5) It costs nothing, except a little time, to make the declaration, and it will enhance the relationship with this symbol of recognition.

Should you decide to progress this idea and the Day is declared, SCA would be thrilled to hear from you and to keep a record of this milestone.

SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM GLADSTONE, QLD

Saiki Shorebird Artwork – UPDATE!

Back in the December 2021 issue of the SCA newsletter we brought you an article about a special event which celebrated a special anniversary. Here is a brief recap:



Artwork Margaret Worthington, Fabrication Clive Rouse

two cities. To commemorate this milestone, three stainless steel shorebird artworks have been installed at the entrance of the Gladstone Regional Council Civic Centre.

On Thursday 17th March, the unique Saiki Shorebird Artwork was unveiled at the Gladstone Civic Centre to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of declaration of friendship between the Gladstone Region and Saiki City.

The occasion commenced with the Art and Science of Shorebirds Workshop, where Birdlife Capricornia Secretary Allan Briggs shared his insight and knowledge into the amazing migration of the shorebirds with participants from the community, while artist Margaret Worthington led an art workshop where the attendees had the opportunity to practice drawing the shorebirds and then create a watercolour painting.

On 4 September 2021, the Gladstone Region and Saiki City celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of friendship between the

The Saiki Shorebird Artwork was then unveiled at the Civic Centre, seeing a fusion of Japanese and Australia Cuisine, speeches with Japanese translation, the beautiful sounds of bird inspired songs by talented recorder player Allison Hutton and a display of Saiki Children's Artwork. The civic centre was lit up red in celebration of this special occasion. The Saiki Sister City Committee is certain that residents of Saiki City will enjoy the event, captured on video, to be remembered for many years to come.

The committee are proud to share a commemorative video of the event with you. The videos can be seen using these links:

English - <https://youtu.be/b96s-DhQKzg>

Japanese - <https://youtu.be/8YxB5RomT08>

For more information on the Gladstone Saiki Sister City Program please visit:

<https://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/sister-city-program>.

The Gladstone Saiki Sister City Committee were proud to share the celebration of friendship with Saiki City and are certain it will be remembered for many years to come. The committee hope you enjoy the video also.

Community Development Team,
Gladstone Regional Council
communitydevelopment@gladstone.qld.gov.au

SCA Affiliation Directory and Links Update



Is there information missing? Is there incorrect data? This Directory is the definitive document on Australian Sister



2021 DIRECTORY OF AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITY AND FRIENDSHIP CITY AFFILIATIONS

City and Friendship City links and your help is needed to ensure that it remains as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

Click [HERE](#) if you would like to download the latest version of the Affiliation Directory from the Documents page of our NEW website. Please send me an email if you find any errors or omissions – thank you in anticipation.

Does your Sister City Association or Committee have a webpage?

Do you have a Facebook Page?

Do you have a presence on Social Media?

Would you like to share those links with SCA members and friends?

If you would like your website, Facebook page, LinkedIn page, Instagram account, or other social media pages added to the list please let me know by clicking on the link below. Thank you for your help and support with this SCA initiative, which I hope will be a useful resource for all.

Click [HERE](#) to send your link details to SCA.

SCA AFFILIATION DIRECTORY

Have you checked out the Affiliation Directory recently? It has been meticulously updated to reflect all of the Council amalgamations that have occurred in all of the Australian States.

SCA on Facebook

Please FOLLOW, LIKE, or SHARE us, we'd love to see your contributions

The OFFICIAL SCA Facebook Page

SCA has had a web presence on Facebook for a while now. We have updated it to allow us all to share our stories and articles on all things sister city related.

Click [HERE](#) to go to our Facebook page

The OFFICIAL SCA Facebook Group

The Facebook Group will still remain as this is where we are able to share files, such as our quarterly newsletter.

Click [HERE](#) to go to our Facebook Group

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SCA

Your SCA Committee

President – Bill Wilson;

Mobile: 0491 118 779;

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

Vice President - Christina Despoteris;

Mobile: 0426 682 682; Email:

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Mobile: 0437 892 933;

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Executive Member – Greg McCallum;

Mobile: 0422 404 129;

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Full contact details for any of the Committee are available on the SCA website on the About Us/Administration page.

SCA has a NEW website – <http://www.sistercitiesaustralia.org.au>



site search



members



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