

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Please enjoy reading The Sister Cities Australia (SCA) December 2022 edition of our e-Newsletter. Our thoughts are with members impacted over recent months with the floods in metropolitan and regional areas across the country.

2022 has been a challenging and difficult year. Organisations such as ours have been reluctant to engage in face-to-face activities. Many planned events have either been cancelled or postponed. We as a group, decided not to organise a face-to-face Conference/Forum, but arranged two online Forums, one early in the year and the other as part of our Annual General Meeting last month.

The use of Zoom, the not-so-new communication platform, has meant organisations and individuals have been creative in meeting online, and engaging in seminars and presentations which would have otherwise cost them a fortune in travel and accommodation. Our Executive has met regularly during the last three years via Zoom.

The SCA online presence, our website, has been substantially upgraded and redesigned to reflect new technologies and a clearer presentation of our programs

and events. Thanks to Mike, this e-Newsletter is published on a regular basis. Our revised National Awards will go ahead in 2023, and will reflect the changes in the programming of events, during and post Covid.

2023 will also see SCA engage in a Membership drive to attract new members to our organisation, we will also review and revise our Constitution as this has not been done for a while.

On a personal note, I thank the Executive Members of SCA, Gordon, Greg and Jennie for their work during the year to ensure we stayed connected with our members and plan for the future. A special thanks must go to our Secretary Mike Jakins, who works tirelessly not only providing secretarial support for our meetings but has continuously managed to publish our regular e-Newsletter. I would also like to welcome our newest member Peter Filmer OAM who joined us recently.

2023 will be a busy year delivering our long-awaited National Conference/Forum and re-instating the SCA National Awards.

This time of year is full of joy, light, and traditions. Families usually get together to eat too much food, share laughs and stories, watch cheesy holiday movies, give each other gifts, and most importantly, spend quality time together.

With the COVID-19 pandemic re-appearing, we need to be careful and stay alert, while enjoying the Festive Season. We can go back to celebrating old traditions, getting together for big dinners with family and friends, but not forgetting to give thanks for everything that unites us. Now is the time to recognise all the good that we have in our lives. It's a time to celebrate Christ's message of compassion, generosity, kindness, and hope, show people we love them – and right now, that message is more important than ever before.

From my family to yours, I wish you joy, health and love this holiday season.

Happy Festive Season everyone.

Christina Despoteris OAM
President
Sister Cities Australia

What's making this issue great?

- ✓ [Online Forum and 2022 AGM Feedback](#) p.2
- ✓ [Special Article from Cairns, Qld](#) p.2
- ✓ [Do you have a Sister City Day?](#) P.4

ONLINE FORUM AND 2022 AGM FEEDBACK

Held on the 14th November, 2022

The second SCA Online Forum “International Perspectives” was held on Monday, November 14, with almost 30 people online at any one time during the session. This far exceeded our expectations and was very welcomed. It was also pleasing to have a number of Sister City representatives, as well as the two presenters, from our friends in New Zealand joining us.

I would like to sincerely thank the following for providing excellent presentations and for making them available to us all.

1. **Taylor Marston** (Board Member, Global Cities New Zealand) - *Youth Participation project.*
2. **Makio Yamada** (Deputy Executive Director, CLAIR) - *How CLAIR can assist cities with existing and new Sister City relationships.*

3. **Mayor Grant Smith** (President, Global Cities New Zealand) - *Drawing our national organisations, respective cities and communities closer together.*

I have uploaded the presentations (available to be downloaded), to our website – click [HERE](#) to access them.

Between presentations 2 and 3 SCA held its Annual General Meeting which didn’t take long as this was not an election year for positions on the Executive Committee. A big thank you to those members that attended the AGM and also contributed to making the online forum a success.

Mike Jakins

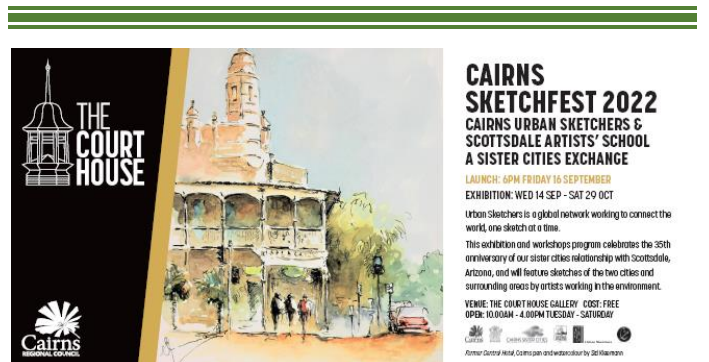
SCA National Secretary

SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM CAIRNS, QLD

Cairns Sister Cities Exhibitions



Three exhibitions were held at the Courthouse Gallery from 14 Sep - 29 Oct. They were to highlight and celebrate Cairns sister cities and the special relationship we have had over the past 53 years, since the signing of the first relationship with Hiwasa (Minami) in 1969 and to celebrate the 35th Anniversary with Scottsdale.



Cairns Sketchfest - The exhibition and workshops program celebrates the 35th Anniversary with our sister city of Scottsdale in Arizona. It features sketches of the



two cities and surrounding areas by artists working in the environment and celebrates the diversity of both regions.

Scottsdale will hold the same exhibition in Feb 2023.

A community day was held at the Scottsdale's McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on 23 October 2022 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Scottsdale's sister city

including ceramics, photography, textiles and now printmaking.



'Gifts from Our Sisters' is now on permanent display at the Cairns Library.

These are some of the gifts received over the years and



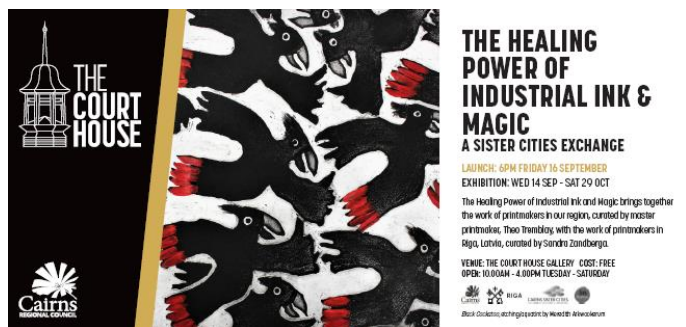
relationship with Cairns.

It was a fun and extremely successful event with over 300 attendees. The eighteen passenger train ran full all morning with lots of happy children. The "Diary of a Wombat" walkabout, the library's display table, the drawing lessons for wombats and kangaroos, and the seed planting tables were all busy throughout the morning. Everyone learned more about Australia.



by housing them in a venue for the public to enjoy, it also raises awareness of the sister cities links that Cairns has around the world.

The kimono was presented to Cairns on the 30th Anniversary by Minami in 1999.



The Healing Power of Industrial Ink and Magic exhibition with our sister city of Riga, brings together the work of printmakers in our region with the work of printmakers in Riga, Latvia.

Cairns and Riga have been sister cities since 1990. Riga have been an active participant in past exchanges



Sim Hayward
Ambassador, Cairns Sister Cities

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.

SCA Affiliation Directory and Links Update



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.

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



2021 DIRECTORY OF AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITY AND FRIENDSHIP CITY AFFILIATIONS

SCA on Facebook

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

The OFFICIAL SCA Facebook Page

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

The OFFICIAL SCA Facebook Group

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

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SCA

Your SCA Committee

President – Christina Despoteris OAM;

Mobile: 0426 682 682;

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

Vice President – CURRENTLY VACANT

National Treasurer – Gordon Allen;

Mobile: 0412 278 64;

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

National Secretary - Mike Jakins;

Mobile: 0417 176 568;

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

Executive Member – Cr. Jennie Barrera;

Mobile: 0437 892 933;

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

Executive Member – Greg McCallum;

Mobile: 0422 404 129;

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

Executive Member – Peter Filmer OAM;

Mobile: 0416 150 055;

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

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

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.