



SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

NEWSLETTER

September 2018 - Special Edition

From the Board



Save the Date

2019 Annual Conference

Please save the dates: 21 - 23 March 2019

The next annual conference will be held in Palmerston North, 21 - 23 March 2019 in conjunction with their annual International Festival of Cultures event on 23 March.

The theme will be “Prosperity Through Partnership”, with a special focus on the economic development benefits of international relations for cities and districts.

New Board Member

The Board co-opted Toni Grace, International Relations Manager of the Palmerston North City Council, to be a Director at the latest Board meeting held in Wellington on 7 July.



Toni will bring her strong work experience and academic background in the areas of international relations, strategy and policy advice, stakeholder engagement, and event management to SCNZ.

Prior to working for the Palmerston North City Council, Toni was Senior Advisor, International Strategy, for Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

The appointment means that the Board now includes representation of Council staff, as well as elected members and Sister City community groups, from a range of cities and regions across North and South Island.

Toni is keen to join the SCNZ Board as per her statement: "I think there is a great opportunity for New Zealand cities and districts to better understand and benefit from Sister

Cities, plus other innovative forms of global partnership.

Coming from a central government background, I also have ideas about how better coordination at a local and national level can help this.

I also look forward to being actively involved with planning and preparation for the 2019 SCNZ conference in Palmerston North."

New roles for board advisor

Luke Qin JP elected President of the Wellington Chinese Association and joins the national executive of the New Zealand Chinese Association.

Nominated by 8 committee members, our board advisor Luke Qin was recently elected President of the Wellington Chinese Association to succeed retiring President and former National President of the New Zealand Chinese Association Steven Young, who has lead the New Zealand Chinese community with distinction over a long period of time. Sister Cities New Zealand would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Luke, and look forward to an ongoing and mutually beneficial partnership with the Wellington Chinese Association and New Zealand Chinese Association to foster understanding, friendship and mutual economic growth between sister cities.

My recent visit to Japan

By Hiromi Morris, SCNZ President

NZ White Sox - National Softball Team with Grassroots Spirit

It was a great opportunity for me to spend time as an assistant with the NZ White Sox, “National Team with Grassroots Spirit” for their training in Ichihara City (Chiba), my hometown, prior to the World Women’s Softball Championship held early August.

They are all fine, well-mannered young women and I was very impressed with their humbleness and politeness.

They are top athletes representing New Zealand, but also they are enthusiastic to learn a different culture and tradition and promoting Kiwi culture through interacting with local people. Despite their hard training schedule they were willing to spend time at softball clinics and friendly matches for school children and a local softball team with disabilities. This experience assured me the importance of people-to-people connection at a grassroots level.

Ichihara City is registered as a host town for New Zealand for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games participating in their national initiative promoting exchanges.

Auckland Mayor’s visit to Tokyo

It was coincidental that Auckland Mayor Phil Goff visited Tokyo while I was in Japan and it was a real pleasure to be able to accompany the Mayor for meetings with Utsunomiya (Tochigi) and Shinagawa (Tokyo) Mayors, as SCNZ President and his interpreter.

ATEED Chief Executive Nick Hill, David Taipari - Chairman of Independent Māori Statutory Board and Marty Rogers - Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Manager, Te Puni Kōkiri also attended these meetings.

Both relationships have remained strong through student exchanges over 36 years with Utsunomiya and 25 years with Shinagawa respectively. Nearly 2,000 Utsunomiya students have visited Auckland over the years.

Lynfield College has taken a big role for Auckland/Shinagawa student exchanges with an educational and homestay programme that started in 1990 and a Summer School programme that started in 1994. For the 25th anniversary of their Friendship City relationship, on behalf of the SCNZ Board, I presented certificates to acknowledge the effort and contribution by the Mayors and Citizens of both cities. Lynfield College Principal Cath Knell and International Education Director Gill Austin joined this special occasion.



Top left: NZ White Sox Team

Top right: Shinagawa Mayor Takeshi Hamano and Auckland Mayor Phil Goff

Right: Utsunomiya Mayor Eiichi Sato (middle) with NZ Ambassador Stephen Payton (to his left) and Auckland Mayor Phil Goff (to his right)





Kōrero 2018 Christchurch

By Caroline Pope, SCNZ Newsletter Editor

Kōrero 2018 Christchurch was held in late June as the third in a nationwide series of panel discussions. These were designed to encourage people-to-people links between young people across ethnicities as well as between generations and different groups within the community.

Events had been held in Auckland and Wellington so Christchurch was next on the agenda.

Kōrero enabled SCNZ and partners to bring together future leaders to talk about challenges and opportunities of being global citizens and what benefits international connections and cultural diversity have for our communities.

It was inspiring to hear from a diverse group of our youth and community leaders, as well as words of wisdom from MP Michael Wood (pictured top right). Our panelists were Philomena Petaia, Kirsten Marsh, Earl Magtibay, Candy Zhang and Ashlyn Oswald (above right, L-R).

Some of the questions put forward to our panellists included: Do you consider yourself a global citizen? Should secondary languages be compulsory in schools? The panelists gave us some fascinating insights and



we hope that this conversation inspires future action towards better connections both internationally as well as in our own communities.

SCNZ board member Marcus Boshier moderated the event and while unfortunately there wasn't enough time to delve deep into as many questions as we would have liked, it was a great way to open lines of communication and see a genuine and tangible interaction.

Representatives from council, Sister City groups, local diplomatic staff, ethnic community groups and youth attendees meant that networks were mingled, insights were shared, voices are heard and opportunities were created.

2019 will mark the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism

By Katherine MacGregor, Event Manager, MBIE

To coordinate Year of Tourism activities across New Zealand, MBIE has launched a website (www.cnzyot.govt.nz) to advertise information on events and provide information concerning the Year of Tourism to interested parties.

The Year of Tourism is an opportunity to grow and develop New Zealand's reach into the Chinese market and to build on cross-cultural links via this joint diplomatic initiative. The website contains resources outlining how to cater for

Chinese visitors and basic Mandarin phrases; as well as links to further resources developed by New Zealand's tourism industry. It also has an application form for

use of the Year of Tourism logo which is endorsed by both the Chinese and New Zealand governments – Sister Cities and affiliated organisations across New Zealand are welcome to apply to use the logo throughout 2019 and in the build-up to the 2018/19 peak summer season. If you would like to get involved please contact MBIE's tourism policy team at cnzyot@mbie.govt.nz.



Fukuoka Garden wins national awards

By Pamela Jamieson, Global Partnerships and Strategy Advisor, Auckland Council

The Fukuoka Garden in Western Springs Lakeside Park has won Best Overall Project and Best Local Government Project at the Sister City New Zealand Awards – an annual programme recognising outstanding sister city initiatives that foster international understanding and friendship.

The Fukuoka Garden is a redevelopment of the original garden built in Auckland Zoo, which was gifted to Auckland in 1989 from Japan's Fukuoka City in recognition of the sister city relationship. The relocation of the garden from its original site was part of an expansion plan for the zoo.

Mayor Phil Goff says the awards are a testament to the strong relationship between Auckland and Fukuoka.

"It's great to see the Fukuoka Garden project, and the Auckland/Fukuoka relationship, recognised at this year's Sister City New Zealand Awards. Auckland and Fukuoka have been sister cities for more than 30 years and in that time our relationship has gone from strength to strength," says Mayor Phil Goff.

"The garden's redevelopment was an opportunity to deepen our ties with Fukuoka City and create a space that all Aucklanders can enjoy. Together we have created an authentic Japanese garden that incorporates salvaged materials from the original garden, along with some modifications to suit its new location and enhance accessibility.

"I look forward to discussing the success of this project during my visit to Fukuoka," he says.

Community good sorts

President of Sister Cities New Zealand Hiromi Morris praised the level of community involvement in the project, particularly the active role the Friends of Fukuoka Garden group played.

The community group played a fundamental role in lobbying for the reinstatement of the Fukuoka Garden and was highly involved in the planning, design and construction of the new garden.

Central Auckland oasis

Albert-Eden-Roskill Ward Councillor Cathy Casey, who chaired the project steering group, was a strong advocate for the garden's restoration.

"The restored garden remains true to traditional Japanese design and is a real oasis in central Auckland. It's bigger, better, free of charge and offers a beautiful space for people to enjoy some peace and tranquility," she says.

"There was close collaboration between many areas of the council, together with the Friends of Fukuoka Garden and valued input from Fukuoka City Greenery Department and Professor Kubota, the designer of the original garden, to bring this new garden to life."

Fusion of cultures

The Fukuoka Garden opened at its new location in July 2017 and is a fusion of Japanese and New Zealand native plant species. It has a tea pavilion, waterfall and pond. Some features of the original garden that have been incorporated include four bonsai trees, paving stones, lanterns, a water basin and the entrance feature.

The design of the new garden was created by Fukuoka's ZEN Environmental Design Ltd with Fukuoka City Greenery Department and Professor Iekatsu Kubota.

Auckland Council's landscape architects also worked closely with the Japanese-based designers to ensure the garden remained true to traditional Japanese design.

