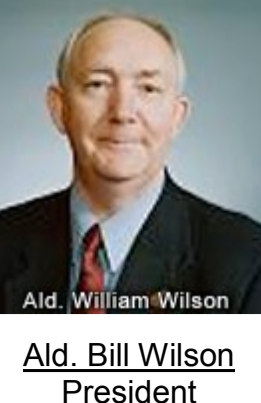


Sister Cities Australia (SCA) is a member's organisation which supports sister city affiliations. SCA aims to provide a forum for cultural, economic and educational interchange between communities and to encourage friendship, co-operation and understanding to improve peaceful co-existence worldwide.

### MESSAGE FROM BILL

Yesterday I had cause to sign and then date a document. Signing was no problem however when attaching the date it was with some concern I realised that we are fast approaching the half way point of 2013. Where does the time go? The reality of this is that it makes one more aware of the necessity of completing those long shelved tasks and in the realm of Sister Cities I would suggest the same applies. How many out there were intending to submit an entry for the awards in 2013 and somehow just haven't managed to allot the time to do so. Never mind, there is always next year!

There are some exciting times ahead with some of the upcoming events around the Nation not least of which will be the Annual Conference to be hosted by Broken Hill Council running from 10 - 13 November. Speaking with Mayor Wincen Cuy recently it was certainly apparent the whole community is getting behind the event and after working on the program with Shannan Botten I can assure you of a rewarding and enlightening time. May I also recommend you spend some more time either pre or post conference to take in some of the amazing experiences available in and around The Hill.



Ald. William Wilson

**Ald. Bill Wilson**  
President  
M 0439363149

**Jan Teasdale**  
Vice President  
M 0407 442 136

**Matt Jessop**  
Secretary  
M 0412 136 434

**Caisley Graham**  
Treasurer  
M 0412 571 041

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

**Sim Hayward**  
M 0147 784341

**Cr Sam Iskandar**  
M 0408 210 618

Following on from there I can also recommend sending some young adults along as the program is being put together to give them a wonderful introduction to Sister Cities, a taste of life in the real Outback of Australia and the opportunity to learn many life skills. As a bonus to participating Councils the registration fee for Youth Workers will be the same as for the Youth and I can assure you that all registrations are more than affordable.

On August 5th at the Westin Sydney, in collaboration with Japan National Tourism Organisation and the Consulate General of Japan, Clair Sydney will host the Japan - Australia Sister Cities Relationship. In 1963 the link was formed between Yamato Takada in Nara Prefecture and Lismore in NSW and this was the first Japan Australia Sister City relationship.

Whilst on the subject of CLAIR I wish to extend a warm SCA welcome to new Deputy Director, Mr. Tsuyoshi Ito and trust he enjoys his time here in Australia. I trust he will be a good singing partner for Director Yasuhiko Tanabe.

In March I was privileged to attend the SCNZ National Conference and certainly enjoyed my time in Tauranga. As with us all the concerns are much the same on both sides of the Tasman and both SCA and SCNZ are looking at ways in which we may work more closely together and explore means of funding and expanding the roles of our two organisations. Congratulations to new President Mrs Hiromi Morris, we look forward to continuing our work with you and your new board.

On March 22nd Vice President Jan Teasdale represented SCA at the Japan Sister Cities Forum in Perth, WA. The event was held at the official residence of Mr. Ishikawa, Consul General of Japan, Perth. Very meaningful discussions were held in regards to measuring success and future programs. The strengthening of current relations and how to initiate new links was also explored.

At the recent SCA Executive meeting we discussed sister city relations with China and how SCA might facilitate a member's delegation to explore economic development opportunities there. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in Beijing are fully supportive of this proposal and Executive member Sim Hayward will investigate the viability of these visits

with reference to the Study Tour for Adult Professionals she has successfully coordinated over the past 8 years with China. Sister Cities is in the enviable position of being in a unique situation to open doors that would not normally be accessible. Should you be interested in joining a delegation, please register your expression of interest with the Secretary.

Your Executive are working on the new Strategic Plan, 2014 -18 and more about this will be both discussed and work shopped in November.

## 2013 - The Australia-Japan Tourism Exchange Year

Tourism Australia and the Japan National Tourism Organisation have joined forces to declare 2013 the Australia-Japan Tourism Exchange Year. It's a fitting year to celebrate as Lismore will mark the 50th anniversary of the very first sister city relationship between Australia and Japan with its gold anniversary partner, Yamato Takada City in Nara.



This month's newsletter will focus on some of the great partnership stories between Australia and Japan to commemorate the occasion

### Silver Anniversary; for the Blue Mountains and Sanda, Japan

While Lismore hits it's golden anniversary with Nara, The Blue Mountains are celebrating their silver anniversary with Sanda, Japan. The major activity to celebrate this milestone will be the opening of the Sanda Friendship Gardens which will be officially opened when a delegation visits in October this year.



The Sanda Friendship Gardens

### A Taste of Yaizu in Hobart

As part of the Hobart-Yaizu Sister City relationship, three members of the Yaizu-Hobart Friendship Association and a Yaizu City staff member travelled from Japan to Hobart to participate in the Taste Festival.

The Yaizu visitors prepared and showcased unique Yaizu food products including Deep Sea Water Tofu, Onigiri (Japanese Rice Balls), Genmai Cha, Usucha Arare and Yaizu green leaf teas. The stall operated for the first two days of the Taste Festival with free samples for visitors.

'It was a wonderful opportunity for locals and tourists to experience a genuine taste of Yaizu, to feel the energy of the Taiko Drummers, and meet our Yaizu guests', said Yukiko Burns, member of the Hobart-Yaizu Sister City Committee. 'The stall was a real community effort with members of the sister city committee, the Australia Japan Society and Hobart City Council staff all helping out.'

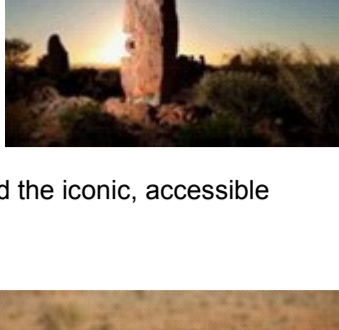
The City of Hobart and Yaizu City have developed a strong Sister City relationship over the past 35 years. This vibrant and ongoing relationship is enriched by students and the community visiting each others' countries and has helped many Tasmanians to develop an understanding of another culture and language.

### UNCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL

2013 SISTER CITIES AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
18-13 NOVEMBER 2013

Join us in Broken Hill for the annual SCA Conference.

Yes, Broken Hill; the world renowned mining city overflowing with Nationally significant heritage and unique experiences amid the iconic, accessible outback.

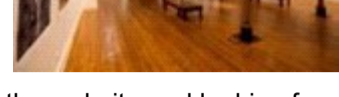


From 10 - 13 November 2013 Broken Hill will be focusing on the key elements need for the Sister Cities movement to continue to grow both domestically and internationally. Sessions will include:



- Community and business engagement
- Communication and social media
- Fundraising and corporate partnership
- Volunteers
- Succession planning

SCA will also be harnessing the delegate's brain power to inform our strategic plan and asking for feedback on services such as the website and looking for ways to improve our flow of information.



Follow this link for full registration details where you will also find documents on:

- Expression of Interest for Presenters
- Expression of Interest for Youth Workers
- Sponsorship Prospectus

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the conference please contact the Conference Coordinator, Shannan Botten on (08) 8080 3391 or the email link above.

National Awards will also be presented at the Conference for programs of excellence. To those who have advised us of their intention to enter, Vice President Jan will be in touch with awards updates! We look forward to receiving your submissions by July 31.

Also don't forget that this will be an election year. Have you considered nominating for a position on the Board? Information to follow but in the meantime contact the SCA Secretary for further details.

It is also with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Kristen Sweeney as our new Awards Judge. Kristen is from the City of Casey in Victoria and brings many years experience in Sister City events with her. She joins SCA Awards judging panel members Colleen Kime from Blue Mountains NSW and Mike Jakins from Rockingham WA. Thanks for making the commitment Kristen, we thank you sincerely and look forward to working further with you in the future.

Have you liked SCA on Facebook? This is a great opportunity for you to get more of your news and events spread through our community but unless you use it, it won't have any effect.

Yours in Sister Cities  
*Bill*

### Going for Gold; 50 years on from our first sister city link with Japan

Exactly 18 years after the atomic bombing of the City of Hiroshima, Lismore and Yamato Takada in Nara took their first step towards healing the wounds of this war. The first sister city signing between Japan and Australia was taken in the spirit of human understanding and peace and goodwill in a rapidly changing world.

So how does a city celebrate these twin milestones? By calling on the community to play an active part. Lismore Council is asking shopkeepers to dress windows and community groups to make memorable, Australian-inspired gifts to be handed out.

Celebrations will commence with the unveiling of a new monument on August 7 and a delegation from Japan will enjoy some Aussie hospitality.

The Mayor, Jenny Dowell said "We'd love to hear from local farmers or cottage industries that could open their farm gates for the day to give the delegates a taste of the wonderful landscape and produce we have in the Northern Rivers."

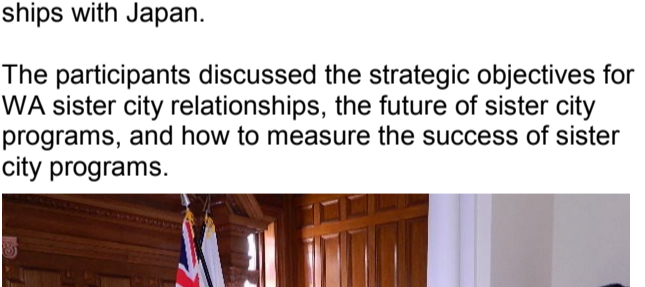


### Sister City Forums

The Consul-General of Japan, Perth; Mr Ishikawa held a Japan Sister Cities Forum on 22 March. Among the participants was Jan Teasdale, Vice President of SCA who made a presentation on the merits of a vibrant sister city program.

WA is the sister state to Hyogo prefecture with nine local governments maintaining 10 sister city relationships with Japan.

The participants discussed the strategic objectives for WA sister city relationships, the future of sister city programs, and how to measure the success of sister city programs.



Jan Teasdale addressing the attendees at the WA Sister Cities Forum

### Coming Up in Sydney

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Sydney will host a forum on Australia-Japan sister cities on Monday 5 August. The Forum will look back at the development of sister city relationship over the past 50 years but most importantly provide a space to discuss the further development of these partnerships.

A congratulatory greeting will be delivered by Hon. Andrew Stoner, MP, Deputy Premier of New South Wales. Discussion on the evolution of Japan/Australia sister cities relations will be facilitated by Ms. Roberta Ryan, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) at UTS.

Invitations and registration forms will be distributed from the middle of June and members of SCA are especially encouraged to attend as key stake holders in these relationships.

### Coming up in Rockhampton

Rockhampton Regional Council, Queensland, in conjunction with the Rockhampton Grammar School is currently organising a student visit from Ibusaki in August this year.

It is planned that up to 15 students will be arriving in Rockhampton on Tuesday 20 August for a seven day stay. The students will be home stayed and attend school each morning, then have a cultural tour arranged by Council in the afternoon. This year they will be visiting the Rockhampton Zoo, Dreamtime Cultural Centre, The Capricorn Caves and The Rockhampton Heritage Village.

### Talking with Teresa

Teresa Trinh grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney and graduated in Japanese language studies from UWS. A love of manga and anime led her to pursue Japanese at tertiary level.

Her first experience of life in Japan was on a 1 year Internship with the JAL Foundation which led to her interest in Bankstown Council's teacher placement program in Suita. While on the program her role included language instruction, promotion of cultural awareness and assistance with students travelling to Bankstown on the Sister City Exchange Program.

SCA caught up with Teresa during a quick trip back to Australia in March before she concludes her contract in Japan in September.

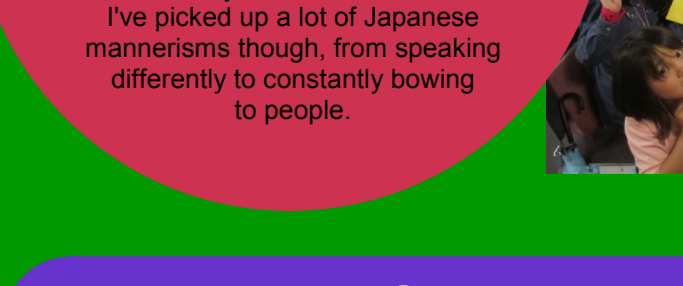
### Do things feel different in Japan post Tohoku earthquake and tsunami?

We felt it in Osaka but everyone just thought it was a regular earthquake. Slowly we found out the whole story. We were all very scared after the news came through but the Japanese people are very resilient. They don't panic and were very helpful sending aid through quickly. Osaka is quite far removed (1000 km from the epicentre). A few of my students still travel up there to volunteer, through doing things like planting trees, talking to people and clearing the area. Some areas still look like a disaster zone though. I remember how beautiful it was but I'm a little reluctant to go back.



### Has Japan changed you?

The Japanese are very discreet and respectful. They accept people without staring and making comments and they try hard to include people with a disability without making them feel any different. My time in Japan has made me really appreciate being an Aussie and taking pride in my own culture. Most of all Australia is very beautiful, even the cities. I've picked up a lot of Japanese mannerisms though, from speaking differently to constantly bowing to people.



### Sister City Snapshots

#### Children's Day Recreated in Mackay

A Children's Day Art and Craft Workshop was held at Artspace Mackay, Queensland on 5 May 2013, in recognition of Children's Day in Japan and in honour of Mackay's warm sister city relationship with Matsuura.



Piper Alana Sprott and Maya Weatherley enjoying Children's Day recreated in Mackay

Fish banners were hoisted on Mackay Regional Council's flagpoles and streamers decorated the entrance to Artspace. Various Japanese style activities were arranged for local children as well as a dress up corner which was the hit of the day.

#### Ako Choir Rocks Rockingham

A delegation of more than 50 representatives from Ako, spent five days in Rockingham, Western Australia and Perth in March this year. The stars of the visit were the 33 member Children's Choir who performed songs in English and Japanese during their stay.

Rockingham deputy mayor Deb Hamblin said it was a pleasure to welcome the choir back to the city for the sixth time.

"Each opportunity we have to make contact with our friends in Ako is a special occasion to share cultural and educational knowledge," she said.



Ako's Children's Choir sings up as storm in Rockingham

This relationship began in 1997 and is clearly still going strong.

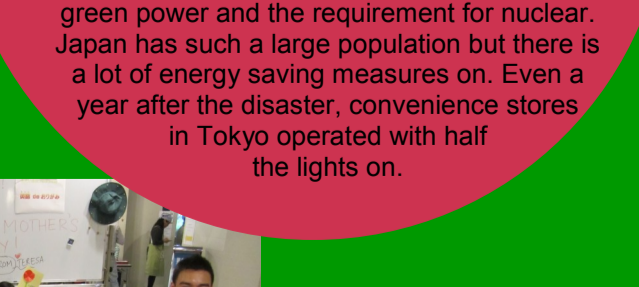
#### Job wise what was your most satisfying project?

One of my favourites was the 2011 Study Tour with Bankstown. This is a sister city project where high school students from Suita are home stayed in Sydney. They tour the local area, learn all about Aussie culture and it improves their English or at least their enthusiasm for studying English. One of the boys, Hiromasa is going to Canada and would like to return to Australia to work at Taronga Zoo.



#### Are people worried about the future and the use of nuclear power?

The Japanese spirit is very strong but parents are so worried about their children. Osaka is too far to worry about any immediate danger but in Tokyo, which is much closer people really don't know what will happen. People just get on with it. The reality is we need the energy and nuclear power is one of the sources. We talk about it in class and there is a split between green power and the requirement for nuclear. Japan has such a large population but there is a lot of energy saving measures on. Even a year after the disaster, convenience stores in Tokyo operated with half the lights on.



#### Where to now?

Back to Uni I think, I might even train to be a vet. I'm coming back to weigh up my options.

## Join us on facebook

In essence the goal of every sister city program is to understand and appreciate other cultures and ways of life.

Join us on Facebook and embark on this journey together.

SCA invites you to contribute stories, photos, successes and even failures to our Facebook so that we can all learn from one another.

Opt out of receiving the Newsletter

Sign up for the Newsletter

Submit a story