



# SISTER CITIES

## NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

## NEWSLETTER

December 2017

### The 120<sup>th</sup> Rewi Alley anniversary commemorations

**Bernard Duncan - Chairman, Christchurch China Sister City Committee**

2017 is the 120th anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth, the 90th anniversary of his arrival in China and the 30th anniversary of his death.

During the course of this year these anniversaries have been celebrated extensively in China including a function hosted by the Chinese Vice President in the Great Hall of the People last April. New Zealand was represented at this event by two delegations; one from the NZ China Friendship Society and the second composing members of the Alley family.

On the 1st and 2nd of December it was New Zealand's turn to mark these significant anniversaries of the life of a man who was born in Springfield on the Canterbury Plains and then at the age of 30 years left for China to spend what would turn out to be the next 60 years of his life. China in fact became his home and his passion. He had a ringside seat to what was a tumultuous period in China's history. He became a great collector of Chinese artifacts and wrote books on the subject. During his 60 years he was variously a fireman, a factory inspector, an organiser of flood relief, the founder of the Industrial co-operative movement, the founder of the Shandan Baillie school and its first Headmaster, an educationalist, the author of over sixty books, a photographer and an activist in the Peace movement.

In the latter part of his life, his influence saw New Zealand being one of the first western countries to establish diplomatic relations with China. He also encouraged



Consul General from the Chinese Consulate in Christchurch and the Governor General at the opening of the Chinese Friendship bridge in Amberley.



### Seasons Greetings

The Board of Sister Cities New Zealand sends a special greeting this Christmas time. To you all we extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season and look forward to working with you and your sister city relationships in 2018.

the setting up of the NZ China Friendship Society and the establishment of the Sister City link between Christchurch and Gansu, a province in north western China where he spent many years. Both latter organisations are very active today.

The 1st and 2nd of December saw 160 people gather in Christchurch to commemorate and reflect on Rewi Alley the man and his achievements. Making up the gathering were 70 people who had travelled from China for the event and 42 members of the extended Alley family from both New Zealand and China.

Activities included a symposium, a celebration banquet, visiting places important to Rewi as a boy and a young man, particularly to Springfield where he was born and to Amberley where he spent his primary school days.

The Symposium was a major achievement for the local organising committee. Papers were sought for the event from both countries under three headings: Rewi Alley's Life and Influences, Rewi Alley's Educational Ideas and the Legacy of Rewi Alley. The papers were published and provided to all attendees while summaries were presented to the Symposium.

In spite of spending two thirds of his life in China, Rewi Alley was the essence of a good kiwi bloke – rugged, independent, self-reliant, determined, and very sure of his beliefs and ability.

### Congratulations

From the board to Bernard Duncan, SCNZ director, on the Dunhuang Award given to him by the Gansu government.



## Kōrero Wellington

Marcus Boshier, SCNZ Director

**On 16 November SCNZ co-ordinated the second Panel discussion as part of their Ethnic Communities Development Fund Kōrero project.**

The discussion was held in Wellington following the first session, in Auckland earlier in the year. We were blessed to have a wonderfully engaged panel consisting of;

- Elisha Hsiao, SCNZ Youth Subcommittee, Asia NZ Leadership Network
- Haimona Waititi, Tukaha
- Michael Roberts, JETAA
- Nasra Abdi, NZ Refugee Youth Council
- Pakeeza Rasheed, Solicitor, consultant
- Sonya Giles, Victoria International Leadership Programme (VILP), UN Youth, SavY

The Panel brought with them a tremendously varied and diverse range of experiences which provided for a rich

hour long discussion on issues of global importance to young people in New Zealand. The Panel addressed the topics of identity, language, immigration and the place of economics in international relationships.

The discussion was well attended and supported by local organisations. We are very grateful for those who came along. A key message from the Panel was that Sister Cities' purpose in promoting relationships founded with a focus on peace and prosperity is still not only relevant, but hugely important and attainable. They said economic benefits may stem from these relationships, but felt this need not be the initial focus.

We are looking at co-ordinating two more Kōrero discussions in the New Year to round off the project. If you are interested in watching the Wellington Kōrero discussion you can visit our website or the SCNZ youtube page. Thank you again to all those who supported the event and helped bring it together.

### Watch Kōrero online:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeOau27LXko&t=23s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeOau27LXko&t=23s)



Top row L to R: Lower Hutt Mayor Ray Wallace, Pakeeza Rasheed, Hiromi Morris, Michael Roberts, Nasra Abdi, Haimona Waititi  
Bottom row L to R: Porirua Mayor Mike Tana, Raewyn MacGregor-SCNZ Youth Subcommittee, Marcus Boshier



## Dunedin network meeting

Byron Sanders, SCNZ advisor

A Sister Cities New Zealand networking event was recently held on 8 November in Dunedin bringing together many of the people and organisations that support and represent Sister City relationships within the region.

Dunedin city is very proud to have three strong Sister City relationships (Shanghai, China; Otaru, Japan; and Edinburgh, Scotland). Representative from each of these Sister City organisations met with Dunedin City Council officials, allied partner organisations, and some members of the Sister Cities New Zealand board. We were very fortunate to be welcomed by Dunedin City's Deputy Mayor, Chris Staynes and City Councilor, Christine Garey. While also being supported by the Director of Enterprise Dunedin, John Christie and Chief Executive of the Otago Chamber of Commerce, Dougal McGowan.

This networking opportunity provided a great platform to connect and discuss local

successes in recent events and also to plan for upcoming events and opportunities to grow these Sister City relationships. It provided an opportunity to each of the Sister City organisations to share ideas about what has worked well for them in promoting their initiative and events. There are plans afoot to ensure this is an annual event that helps to grow people-to-people connections that make Sister City relationships so successful.



Photo: J Corbett

## Missoula visitors help celebrate 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister City relationship

Toni Grace, Palmerston North City Council

A well-timed visit to Palmerston North has led to some Missoula residents taking part in a 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Sister City relationship.

The visitors were part of an 18-strong American Friendship Force group staying in Palmerston North with Manawatu Friendship Force Chapter hosts. On 8 November Mayor Grant Smith welcomed the group in the city's Council Chambers before hosting them at a lunch.

They were able to visit Council's main meeting room, the Missoula Room, and saw gifts from their home city, including a painting that is permanently on display. They also delivered a letter and gift from the Mayor of Missoula to Mayor Smith.

"It was a great opportunity for us to be able host the visitors in our city during the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary," says



Top: The Mayor and Friendship Force visitors from Missoula stand at the entrance to Missoula Reserve, named for our US Sister City.

Bottom: Tree planting in Missoula Reserve, Palmerston North.

Toni Grace, PNCC International Relations Manager. "It allowed us to reciprocate Missoula's acknowledgement of our relationship in the New Zealand Day they held in May, which included a rugby match and a screening of Kiwi film Hunt for the Wilderpeople."

The lunch was also attended by members of the US Embassy Public Affairs team, who spoke to the visitors about the special relationship between New Zealand and the United States.

During the lunch, the trip organisers and Council staff agreed to plant a tree in Missoula Reserve (named for our Sister City) as a way to mark the anniversary year. The following week Mayor Grant Smith and the group planted a Pohutukawa tree at Missoula Reserve to celebrate Palmerston North's longest-standing Sister City relationship.

# Wellington and Xiamen – 30 years as Sister Cities!

Janet Andrews, President, Wellington Xiamen Association

**November 29 : A midnight flight from Melbourne landed in Wellington. On board were four artists from Xiamen – missing were their ten carefully packed large art works!**

Luckily these arrived the next night, and by the following day were hanging alongside works by Wellington artists, in the Gallery at the historic St James Theatre. The artists had all been involved in exchanges between the two cities, and were old friends. The exhibition – “A Tale of Two Cities” – was to celebrate thirty years of Wellington-Xiamen sisterhood, and also featured photographs of the people of both cities, shot by a Wellington photographer.

Dec 3 : The Opening was a fast-paced and dramatic programme showcasing local talent – 300 guests were lead up the stairs to a darkened Gallery where young dancers performed through the crowd and onto a floodlit stage. They were followed by a rousing kapa haka performance, and a stunning AV show. The two mayors, Mayor Lester and Mayor Zhuang, were presented with unique mementos of the exhibition, and in turn presented the 10 artists with

certificates and silver fern medallions.

Formalities were intentionally kept to a minimum as this was to be a “kiwi-style celebration”. President Janet Andrews gave a short description of sister cities and what the Wellington Xiamen Association does, and Hiromi Morris graciously presented her and the mayors with certificates. The mayors both made brief addresses before enthusiastically blowing out candles and cutting the very large cake.

The Gallery lights were then switched on and the guests were free to enjoy the art, the food and drink, the live music on violin and guzheng, and tea from Xiamen.

The event had taken months of planning and hard work by the Wellington Xiamen Association – who saw it as a great way to spread awareness of our sister city and its potential to Wellington, and to emphasize the importance of the people-to-people relationship in our globalised world.

## Mayor Zhuang of Xiamen visits Wellington

Amanda Cundy, Wellington City Council

**During the 2nd New Zealand China Mayoral Forum earlier this month, Wellington was honoured to host the Mayor of the previous host city, and its treasured sister city, Xiamen.**

Mayor Zhuang Jiahua undertook his first official overseas visit in the capital from the 2nd – 4th December, and aside from attending the first New Zealand hosted bilateral forum, enjoyed a number of sister city related and city tourism events and activities.

Mayor Zhuang's visit follows Mayor Justin Lester's first official visit to Xiamen which took place in November to mark the 30th anniversary of sister city relations between the two cities. With the support from Wellington City Council, both Mayors attended a Wellington Xiamen Association hosted event at the St James Theatre in Wellington to commend the milestone, bringing together artists and photographers from

both cities in a warming exhibition to celebrate the cities' friendship.

Both cities are wholeheartedly looking forward to another 30 years, and more, of close cooperation, expanding on their successful existing portfolio of ties in education, trade and investment, culture and arts, governance, and industry partnerships.



Mayor Lester and Mayor Zhuang (Photo: Simon Hoyle)



## Bihoro trip yields ideas

Viv Posselt, Cambridge News (reprinted with permission)

**Among those making up a delegation of 10 who visited Cambridge's Japanese sister city Bihoro in early November was Waipa District Mayor Jim Mylchreest, who has returned with a mixed bag of ideas.**

This was the Mayor's first visit to the Japanese city of around 20,000, and one which marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister-city agreement. The New Zealand group also attended commemorations marking the 130th anniversary of the founding of Bihoro.

Mr Mylchreest said he found it the exchange of ideas with local government officials in Japan to be particularly interesting from a local government perspective, and referenced the difference between Japanese and New Zealand systems in terms of service provision.

Mr Mylchreest said Bihoro had a comprehensively-equipped hospital with around 100 beds for its residents, with services delivered at local level. It was equipped with a CT scanner and operating rooms, it provided a range of other health services such as geriatric care, and general practitioners worked out of the hospital.

"Those with specific conditions or ailments are sent elsewhere; it is a very efficient system. It could be a model we should look at copying.

"It was also interesting to see how many activities which would be funded here through the rates take are funded over there by central government. Take the Cambridge pool development for example; were we in Bihoro, 80 percent of

the cost would be funded by central government."

This year's group of 10 included Mr Mylchreest and his wife Robyn; Deputy Mayor Grahame Webber; Councillor Elwyn Andree-Wiltens; Council's Te Takawaenga Chuck Davis and his wife Carol Thomas; Bihoro Sister City committee member Brent Nielsen; Robyn Maxwell, widow of Murray Maxwell who established the sister city agreement; translator Ryu Imahashi; and Cambridge Community Board member Julie Epps.

The Waipa District Council funded Mr Mylchreest and Chuck Davis – the others funded the trip themselves.

Brent Nielsen said the sister relationship that had grown from a relationship built between Professor Masahara Yamaki and Waipa District Council employee, the late Murray Maxwell, had blossomed over the past two decades. He said he was surprised to have met over 100 people at the 20th

anniversary celebrations "who have briefly traded towns, including high school students, townspeople and council staff".

"The people of Bihoro value the sister city relationship immensely," he said.

Julie Epps said delegation members were home-hosted during the visit. The group was taken on tours around Bihoro, into schools, hospitals, factories and other facilities. They had a meeting with the indigenous people of the area – the Ainu – and took part in a short ceremony at Bihoro's memorial to Murray Maxwell.

*"The people of Bihoro value the sister city relationship immensely..."*



Waipa District Mayor Jim Mylchreest with Bihoro Mayor, Koji Tsuchiya.



Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site. Left to right, Joshua Taylor (NZ Assistant Language Teacher working in Bihoro), Julie Epps, Chuck Davis, Carole Taylor, Robyn Maxwell and Brent Nielsen and Yukiko Itoh (translator).



Kamagaya Junior High School Brass Band

## Celebration of a 20-year anniversary

Janie Storey, Whakatāne District Council

**Whakatāne and Kamagaya celebrated their 20th anniversary which saw a Mayoral delegation of 15 adults, 2 teachers and 9 students from Trident High School visiting Kamagaya from 23-27 November 2017.**

All of the group were home hosted with families and a full programme of activities was organised. Sunday was a free family day with the host families taking their visitors to a variety of interesting places. While there was some slight apprehension from the group at the thought of staying with host families it was the absolute highlight of the trip for everyone. Only five of the group had visited Japan before so it was a totally new experience for the rest. Home hosting certainly brings to the fore the objectives of the Sister Cities people to people contact resulting in the development of lifelong friendships.

The 20th anniversary ceremony was held on the Saturday afternoon and as well as including speeches, the re-signing of the agreement between Whakatāne and

Kamagaya and the gift exchange, it also included some lively entertainment from the Trident High School Kapa Haka group, Kamagaya Junior High School Brass Band, and vertical bamboo flute and Japanese Harp items.

Another highlight was a gathering to flick the switch to light the Christmas lights by the Kamagaya train station. This included 100 kindergarten children dressed in Santa capes and hats singing Christmas carols – one of which was in English. The Kapa Haka group was also a big hit with the crowd that had gathered for the event. Mayor Tony Bonne and Mayor Shimizu flicked the switch to finalise the ceremony.

As usual when the bus came to take us to the next destination, there was many hugs, lots of smiles and even a few tears and friendships bonded before heading off to the next destination – Shibukawa. The trip was a success and a real testament to the objectives of the Whakatāne District Sister Cities Association.



Trident High School Kapa Haka group



# Descendants of Manuel Jose - “El Clan Español de Nueva Zelanda”

Jan Calder, Gisborne District Sister Cities

**During the week of 21st to 29th Sept '17 The Radio and Television Public Corporation of Spain, film crew (RTVE) was in New Zealand to film descendants of Manuel Jose who arrived on the East Coast (Port Awanui) more than 180 years ago.**

The documentary will be called “El Clan Español de Nueva Zelanda” (The Spanish Clan in New Zealand). This documentary will be aired on TV channels and entered for film awards in 2018

The producer Ana Ruiz said “The documentary is about Manuel Jose’s links with family here and in Spain,” “We want to explain the link with the families and to show the country as well.”

The Journalist Juan Manuel Cuellar said “With its trees, sand and thermal activity, New Zealand’s terrain is very different from that of Spain”. “In Spain people see New Zealanders as happy people. Spanish people like to talk, laugh and touch. In Britain people prefer to keep their distance until they know you. In New Zealand that is very different so we feel close to people here.” [reprinted courtesy with permission from Gisborne Herald]

The Sister Cities connection - A Sister Cities “3 way” relationship was signed 28th December 2010 during celebrations in Gisborne and the East Coast between the Manuel Jose Whanau from the East Coast, Mayor Meng Foon, Gisborne District Council and Mayor Rafael Casada Llorente, Valverde del Majano SPAIN. The formal relationship has evolved from a desire for the extended Manuel Jose family to honour their ancestor Manuel Jose.

Over many years the Manuel Jose Whanau have in turn explored the world but have always been very curious of their ancestors’ story. Reunions have been held, journalists

have written and Film Documentaries have been produced.

The latest Manuel Jose documentary by a Spanish Radio TV Crew was filmed in Sept 2017 and will be shown in 2018 and submitted for film awards.

The Radio and Television Public Corporation of Spain film crew was in NZ to film descendants of Manuel Jose who was born in Valverde Spain in February 1811.

Manuel Jose arrived into the East Coast (Port Awanui) off a whaling boat (thought to be the “Elizabeth”) about 1830. He was alone with no language. Said to be tall, strong with envied reddish wavy hair and green eyes, he left the coast twice in ensuing years before he chose to return to settle on the East Coast. He successfully conducted two trading businesses at Port Awanui near Ruatoria involving local Maori, Militia and early settlers.

During this time he took 5 wives who bore him 8 children. Over many generations the number of descendants naturally increased, currently thought to number about 35,000 and scattered worldwide.

Curiosity, the will to find more factual evidence of the life of Manuel Jose, his birthplace and his travels has led to personal investigating by descendants, reunions and journalistic writings.

The Book “Olive Branches” was written by Vivian (Manuel descendant) and Robert McConnell.

Journalist Diana Burns visited Valverde del Majano and wrote of her extensive findings both in Spain and NZ. The Spanish Embassy is very supportive of the Manuel Jose Whanau and their Spanish connections. A reunion on the East coast was held in 1980 and this celebration has been repeated every 10 years since.



Tuti Tuhaka (2nd from left) who is the most senior member of the East Coast branch of the Manuel Jose family resides in Gisborne and home hosted the film crew of 4 during their 2 days in Gisborne (photo: Mayor Meng Foon)



The Spanish Clan: Mia Manuel (right) with her three month old baby Mireya were among several East Coast descendants of the 19th Century Spanish trader Manuel Jose filmed at the RSA (photo: Mark Peters, Gisborne Herald)

## Innoway's Head of Innovation visits Wellington

Michelle McCarthy, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency

**Innoway is China's \$36 million government-backed start-up village. A 200-meter strip in central Beijing housing over 300 start-ups and 46 business incubators is a scale hard to imagine for the humble Wellingtonian.**

However, what Wellington lacks in size, it makes up for in both creativity and collaboration. Last week Innoway's Head of Innovation, Tim Luan, spent two days here, participating in Local Government New Zealand's China-NZ Business Forum and exploring the Wellington start-up scene.

Hosted by the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA), Tim was openly impressed by the strong ecosystem supporting business growth. He voiced

that "from co-working spaces Biz Dojo and ProjectR, through to accelerator programmes run by Creative HQ and Mahuki, the quality of both the support organisations and the start-ups was outstanding."

Tim also met with Asia New Zealand's Adam McConnochie for a discussion on entrepreneurship and on how the Foundation supports and connects young business leaders from both New Zealand and wider Asia.

Tim commented he will most certainly be back in our creative capital to further build on the business and sister-city connections between Wellington and Beijing. Next time though, it will be with his team and wife in tow.

## My internship experience at Nelson City Council

Toshiya Komatsu, Assistant Director (Tokyo Metropolis), Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

**I am Toshiya Komatsu from the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney) originally from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.**

CLAIR is a Japanese semi-governmental organisation promoting international relations at the local government level. I am responsible for sister city relations at CLAIR and attended the AGM of SCNZ last May. I met Ms Gail Collingwood QSO, the Sister City Coordinator in Nelson, and Ms Lyndal McMeeking, Chairperson of the Nelson-Miyazu Sister City Association, at the conference. Since all CLAIR staff can undertake a one-week internship at a local council in New Zealand and Australia, I asked Ms Collingwood to introduce me to staff from the Nelson City Council to arrange an internship there.

During the internship, staff from the planning team and strategic policy team at the council taught me about urban planning, policy planning and establishing a long term plan. I was also able to observe some council meetings such as the councillors meeting and a committee meeting. I have learnt a lot of things regarding local governance in Nelson and discovered many distinctions in public administration between New Zealand and Japan. For instance, councils in

New Zealand have to consult with the public before they make a long-term plan or a significant decision. Also, long term plans need to be audited by Audit New Zealand. These are the biggest difference with Japanese local governments, in terms of policy making and planning. In addition, it was surprising to me that most staff from the council have not worked for the council for more than 10 years. It is common in Japan to encounter public servants that work in local government for over 30 years.

Overall, it was a great opportunity for me to think more about local governance and policy formation. I would like to share the knowledge I acquired in Nelson with Japanese local governments in order to improve their administrative procedures and diversify their approach to city planning.



Toshiya Komatsu with Nelson City Council staff members

I am deeply appreciative and grateful for Ms Collingwood, Ms McMeeking and the staff from Nelson City Council for arranging the internship for me and their warm welcome. This has been such a great experience for me both professionally and personally, definitely standing out as one of the highlights of my career in local governance so far.



## Internship in Lower Hutt

**Yu Kawamura, Assistant Director (Rokunohe, Aomori Prefecture), Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)**

**Hello, my name is Yu Kawamura from the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR) in Sydney. I am seconded from a town called Rokunohe in Aomori prefecture, Japan. Rokunohe is located in the northern part of Japan and is rich in nature just like Lower Hutt.**

CLAIR facilitates the international activities of Japanese local government, gathers information on local development efforts of other countries and helps communicate the Japanese local government system to the world. Our Sydney office supports Japanese



Mayor Ray Wallace with Yu Kawamura

government officials in New Zealand and Australia by facilitating visits and exchange programmes, liaising between local governments and researching local government systems for the benefit of Japanese prefectures and municipalities. Specifically, we support international activities of Japanese local governments, promote sister city relationships between New Zealand/Australia, and promote the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programmes and support JET Alumni Associations.

I was undergoing an internship at Hutt City Council from 16 to 22 November 2017. I was able to enjoy many great experiences such as visiting community hub facilities, meeting with students who were in Minoh visiting their sister school and joining Japanese classes. In addition, I participated in the Lower Hutt Japan Festival and Sister City New Zealand (SCNZ) 'Kōrero 2017' function. I was able to learn more about policies and projects in Lower Hutt and the strong relationship between Lower Hutt and Minoh. Through my internship I was able to understand why many people who live in Lower Hutt have a deep attachment to Japan.

Thank you very much for allowing me to undertake an internship in your lovely city. CLAIR will continue to support the wonderful and strong relationship between Lower Hutt and Minoh.

## New Zealand Studies Society – Japan (NZSSJ)

By Haruyasu Shiota

**The New Zealand Studies Society – Japan (NZSSJ) is an academic society based in Japan, with subscribing members located mainly in Japan and New Zealand.**

Over one-hundred members are made up of not only academic researchers but also people who love New Zealand and want to obtain more information about New Zealand.

The society was founded in Kobe, Japan, in December 1992. The organization was conceived incorporating the concepts of area studies.

The academic meeting is held in Kyoto, Osaka or in other places, three times per year. The meeting in New Zealand is set once every three years. This year, 2017 coincided as the third such year, and the meeting in New Zealand was held on 26th August at the Arts Centre in Christchurch. The Arts Centre is the former site of the University of Canterbury, and following reconstruction after the 2011 earthquake, it now also houses the Chemistry & Music faculties of the current University of Canterbury.

There are three academic societies in Japan that focus on New Zealand studies. Through the kind support of the New Zealand Ambassador to Japan Mr. Stephen Payton, two people from each society gathered at the New Zealand

Embassy on 12th October and discussed cooperation, as well as putting together literature about New Zealand.

We very much welcome anyone who is interested in studying about New Zealand to join any of the three academic societies, and contribute thereby to research on New Zealand.

**Learn more:**

[www.nzssj.sakura.ne.jp](http://www.nzssj.sakura.ne.jp)



# Save the date!

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