



SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

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 2019.



From the Board

Presentation at Rural & Provincial Meeting

By Donna Favel, Mayor of Ashburton



As Mayor of Ashburton, I recently attended the Local Government New Zealand Rural and Provincial meeting which was held in Wellington 22/23 November 2018. This is a meeting where Mayors, Chief Executives and Councillors meet to discuss and understand the issues in their communities and across the local government sector.

At this meeting I was asked to give a presentation on Sister Cities New Zealand to outline our objectives as an organisation and the benefits we could provide in bringing together sister city associations.

Like myself several Mayors were in their first term and had little background, clarity and direction re their international

relationships and how to enhance them. Sister Cities NZ is a great organisation to assist in this area.

New Zealand has approximately 150 sister city relations with 20 countries around the world including Japan, China, Australia, USA, UK, Europe, Pacific, South Korea, Canada and Indonesia.

An invitation was extended to any interested parties to attend the Sister Cities conference being held in Palmerston North 21/23 March 2019 to discover more of the benefits of Sister Cities NZ.

There was quite a lot of interest around the room from Councils who have established international agreements with sister cities but have not yet connected with Sister Cities New Zealand.

Mayor Favel is also a SCNZ Board member.

2019 SCNZ Conference Update – Prosperity Through Partnership

By Toni Grace, International Relations Manager, Palmerston North City Council

SCNZ members and other participants are invited to register for the 2019 SCNZ Conference to be held in Palmerston North from 21-23 March.

The conference theme “Prosperity through Partnership” will explore how international city partnerships can be fostered and managed for sustainable economic development outcomes.

Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith says that discussions will deep dive into how NZ cities and regions can achieve the best economic and community development outcomes from international relationships. This includes Sister and Friendship Cities, but also the potential of economic alliances, global city networks and other innovative forms of city or regional relationships.

Other key themes include city-to-city cooperation that supports environmental sustainability, intercultural competency and indigenous partnership.

SCNZ and Palmerston North City Council are also proud to have secured several key sponsors for the conference including main conference partner Toyota New Zealand, ongoing Awards Sponsor Air New Zealand, and other supporting sponsors Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and Orbit World Travel.

An information pack for the conference is now available for download, including agenda, registration and accommodation details. Early bird registrations end 15 February, so get your registrations in by the new year to take advantage of the special rate!

[> Click to view the conference information pack](#)

[> Click to view the online registration form](#)

SCNZ Trip to China

By Marcus Boshier, SCNZ Director

From the Board

The China International Friendship Cities Conference was initiated in 2008. It is held every two years. The Conference is a partnership between the Chinese People's Association for Friendships with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the host city. It is one of the most influential platforms for China's local governments to carry out international exchanges.

This year the Conference was held in Wuhan, Sister City to Christchurch. There were more than 700 delegates, 300 foreign representatives from 60 countries, and Chinese representatives from 115 cities and districts. The theme for the Conference was Sharing Development Opportunities and Deepening Win-win Cooperation.

New Zealand was well represented. Delegations from SCNZ, Christchurch and Invercargill attended the conference. Honourable mentions need to be made to Invercargill, Christchurch, Marlborough, and Lower Hutt City who received awards in recognition of their contribution and commitment to Sister City relationships with China.

Hiromi Morris, President, SCNZ, spoke on internationalisation—enhancing urban international competitiveness. Hiromi spoke, on the Auckland, LA, Guangzhou Tripartite Economic Alliance. Tim Quigley, President of Sister Cities Foundation, USA also spoke about the Tripartite Agreement. This is a huge accolade for Auckland and New Zealand. Hiromi also spoke about the up-coming China New Zealand year of tourism. This was very warmly received, as was information kindly provided by Tourism NZ made available to delegates at the New Zealand promotional table. We look forward to seeing what opportunities are born out of this initiative.



Marcus Boshier & Hiromi Morris (SCNZ) Lesley Soper, Invercargill City Councillor and Bernard Duncan, Chair Christchurch China SC Committee, with their respective awards presented at the CIFIC to recognise their cities commitment to its relationship with China.

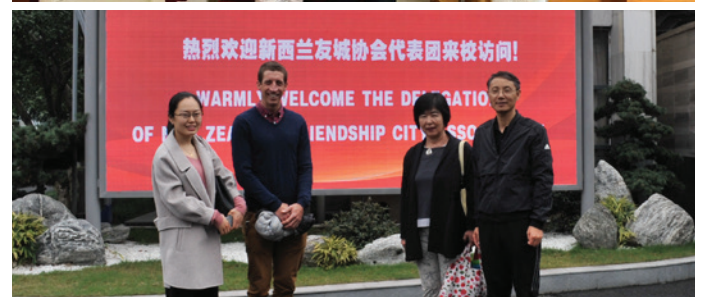
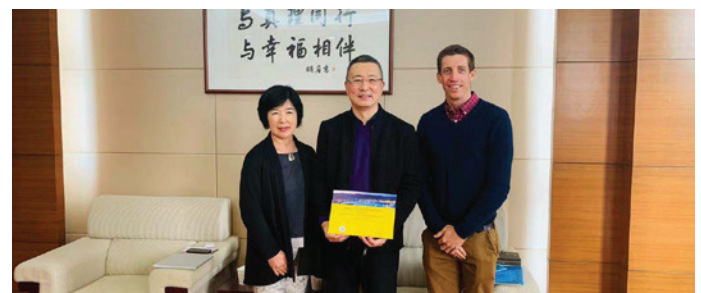
A message that resonated from the Conference was importance of maintaining and growing our local and people to people relationship now more than ever. That while there may be tensions at a State level, sister cities can still and should still seek to develop and flourish. It was amazing to hear the stories of the speakers and of the wide and varied nature of sister city relationships around the world. From relationships founded on the fact two cities were the respective

birthplaces of pre-eminent writers, to a shared interest in technology to natural resources. The opportunities are vast and sister cities provides an incredible stepping stone to engage with other cities meaningfully and to develop these interests.

The host for the next China International Friendship Cities Conference was announced. I will be held in Kunming, Yunnan Province—Sister City of New Plymouth—in 2020.

In addition to the Conference the New Zealand delegates spent valuable time with representatives from various sister cities and Chinese organisations—continuing to build relationships and look for opportunities to collaborate.

Prior to the Conference, Hiromi Morris, and Board Member Marcus Boshier visited Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. SCNZ facilitated to establish a relationship between Zhejiang Province and Wellington Region in 2012. Hiromi and Marcus were hosted by the American and Oceanian Affairs Division of Zhejiang Provincial Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Department. Marcus and Hiromi visited Hangzhou Xuejun Middle School and Hangzhou Jiangnan Experimental School. The SCNZ Youth Tour visited Hangzhou Xuejun Middle School in April so it was quite a special to return there and to offer our thanks for how they hosted our young people.



Clockwise from top left: Hiromi Morris presents on Internationalisation — enhancing urban international competitiveness at the CIFIC Conference; Hiromi and Marcus with Mr Jin Xiaodong, Principal of Hangzhou Jiangnan Experimental School; Ms Dong Dandan of Zhejiang Provincial Affairs Department (far left) and Mr Xu Xiangang, English teacher of Hangzhou Xuejun Middle School (far right); Tourism NZ and SCNZ promotional table set up at the CIFIC to raise awareness for China NZ year of tourism



L - R: Mayor of Le Quesnoy Marie-Sophie Lesne and Chair of the Cambridge Community Board, Mike Pettit; Cambridge Brass Band in Le Quesnoy, pictured with Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) vocalist Rebecca Nelson; The picturesque town of Le Quesnoy

Cambridge and Le Quesnoy (France) Sister City Relationship

By Julie Epps, Cambridge Community Board

Despite being on opposite sides of the globe (18,517 kilometres to be precise), and 12 hours' time difference, sister cities Cambridge (New Zealand) and Le Quesnoy (France) shared a very special day of commemoration on Sunday 4 November.

Le Quesnoy is a town in northern France that holds significance to all New Zealanders, in a connection extending back 100 years to World War I. On 4 November 1918 New Zealand soldiers liberated Le Quesnoy from a four-year German occupation, suffering 500 kiwi casualties including 135 killed, but with no civilian losses and limited damage to the historic town. The people of Le Quesnoy have never forgotten the ultimate sacrifice made by New Zealanders in order to save their town.

Since the year 2000, Cambridge and Le Quesnoy have been linked by their Sister City relationship, with many visits between the two towns. The two towns recognise each other's significant annual WWI commemorations - the people of Le Quesnoy mark ANZAC Day, and Cambridge holds Armistice Day commemorations each year.

In November this year a group from Cambridge, including Deputy Mayor of Waipa District Council Grahame Webber and Chair of the Cambridge Community Board Mike Pettit, travelled to Le Quesnoy and were part of Le Quesnoy's 100 year commemoration on 4 November. Mike spoke of the commemoration, "A most significant and historic time, where our forefathers were remembered and honoured in Le Quesnoy, Cambridge and in many other corners of the world, both on the 4th and 11th of November. Our Sister City



relationship is significant to us, however that week rightly so, was dominated by commemorations that brought home to the heart, that we never forget the sacrifice those brave soldiers made, nor the anguish and toil the townsfolk of Le Quesnoy endured."

The Cambridge Brass Band also travelled to Le Quesnoy for the commemoration. Their contingent of 32 players performed in Le Quesnoy with the local brass band, at schools, aged care facilities, and at the official opening of the New Zealand War Memorial Museum, receiving a warm welcome and hospitality wherever they went.

On this side of the world, Cambridge also commemorated the liberation day. On 4 November the Cambridge Town Hall and Plaza became the central point for commemorations. An art exhibition inside the Town Hall, a large-scale Le Quesnoy photo display on the Plaza and a Sound and Light show projected on the Town Hall ran for a week, concluding on 11 November with an Armistice Remembrance Day Service.

For more information about Cambridge and Le Quesnoy, please see www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz

Top to bottom:

Le Quesnoy Tower lit up for 4 November commemoration

Cambridge Town Hall lit up for 4 November commemoration

On Cambridge Town Hall Plaza - one of the series of Le Quesnoy photo display boards

Timaru marks 10 year sister city relationship with Japan

By Stephen Doran, Communications Manager, Timaru District Council

The 10 year Sister City relationship between Timaru and Eniwa in Japan was celebrated with the mayors of each city unveiling a plaque.

The plaque, which is situated under the tree in front of the Council building, was unveiled by Timaru District Mayor Mr Damon Odey and Mr Yutaka Harada, Mayor of Eniwa.

Mr Harada was joined by a group of delegates from the Japanese city, as well as the Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, Mr Toshihisa Takata and the Head of Information and Cultural Section Mr Kiyohiko Hamada.

The city of Eniwa, which is on Hokkaido in the north of the country, first signed the sister city agreement in 2008. It has led to educational and cultural exchanges, as well as agreements to support one another in disaster situations. The city is a close match to Timaru District, as major agricultural district with significant industry.

At the ceremony, Mr Harada said that while it wasn't the oldest of the 41 sister city arrangements that New Zealand cities have with their counterparts in Japan, but it's one of the closest.

"Ours is a young relationship, but a lot has happened in that space over the past ten years. More than 42 students from Eniwa have come to study in Timaru, and all hold New Zealand close to their hearts.

"It's from this base that I hope we can continue to further our relationship."

Following the ceremony in the council chamber, the group were taken a tour of the district's industrial and agricultural heartlands.

Timaru District Mayor Damon Odey said that around 47 students had taken advantage of the ties with the region to spend time studying in Japan.

"These educational exchanges have been incredibly valuable to the students taking part and the wider community."

Currently the first of four groups of students from Hokkaido Bunkyo University in Eniwa are visiting Timaru to study a short courses in the School of English at the Timaru campus. They will also be taking a trip to Geraldine and a picnic at Peel Forest Farmstay, visiting the Mt John Observatory at Tekapo and a taking a trip to the South Canterbury Museum.

"As a city that is open for business and trading to the world, fostering strong sister city relationships like this one builds understanding about the needs of our trading partners and how our district businesses can build their business abroad," said Mr Odey.

"These visits are also an important cultural exchange, every visitor we have through these programmes becomes an ambassador for our amazing district when they return home."

Timaru has four sister cities throughout the world: Orange, New South Wales, Australia, Established in 1986; Orange, California, United States, Established 1990; Weihai, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China, Established in 1999; and Eniwa, Japan, Established in 2008.

The aim of the programme is to strengthen international exchange for activities in arts, culture, education, sport and trade.

"These educational exchanges have been incredibly valuable to the students taking part and the wider community."





Cambridge Hosts SCNZ Regional Forum

By Julie Epps, Cambridge Community Board

A Regional Collaboration Forum was hosted by Waipa District Council at Lake Karapiro, Cambridge, on 25 October. There were representatives from seven Councils – Waipa District, Tauranga City, Hamilton City, Hauraki District, Rotorua Lakes, Taupo District and Whakatane District. Also attending were Sister Cities New Zealand President Hiromi Morris, government officials, an NGO and local industry.

The focus for the forum was international relations, and it was a productive afternoon of networking, information sharing, exchanging local sister city activities, and discussing how to work collectively as a region.

The presentations throughout the forum all contained positive and forward thinking messages about New Zealand's sister city programme. Waipa District Council Mayor Jim Mylchreest welcomed the group and spoke about his belief in the value of sister cities and his experience with Cambridge's two sister cities – Le Quesnoy in France and Bihoro in Japan.

In the presentation by Sister Cities New Zealand President, Hiromi Morris, she gave an update on SCNZ activities, and spoke about the opportunities through collaboration and the youth development focus to take the sister cities concept into the future.

Tauranga City Council Mayor Greg Brownless gave a comprehensive outline of Tauranga's three sister city relationships, how they operate and the growth in business and the international education sector that has been achieved.

Attendees heard from speakers in three local industries – primary industry, sports and education. Equidays CEO Peter Nation spoke of the importance for industry to be proactive in connecting overseas and the learning that can be gained. Sport Waikato CEO Matthew Cooper talked about the strength of sports in New Zealand, especially in the Waikato, and the potential for sports organisations to have closer alignment with sister cities. Mike Pettit, Principal of Cambridge Primary School and Chair of the Cambridge Community Board, gave a presentation on the school's introduction of Mandarin language lessons. A successful programme, it has now been extended to four other primary schools in Cambridge, with a pathway for Cambridge students to take Mandarin as an NCEA subject.

There were stimulating presentations from MFAT Lead Advisor of the North Asia Division, Jacinta Gould; Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Programme member, Pania Matthews; and MBIE 2019 NZ-China Year of the Tourism Team Manager, Katherine MacGregor. Attendees discussed the considerable interest from Chinese cities to engage with New Zealand cities, so it was timely to have these three presenters speak at the forum.

The day ended with a round table discussion with attendees sharing their sister city experiences, and the consensus was how valuable the afternoon had been, in getting together as a region to exchange information and ideas. A special thank you goes to Cambridge Councillor Elwyn Andree-Wiltens for organising the forum.

City Emergency Management Exchange with Japan

By Stewart Davies, Palmerston North Emergency Manager

Palmerston North City Council's Emergency Manager, Stewart Davies, visited budding Japanese partner city Mihara last month to witness the city's annual preparation day for locals, which included sandbagging, stretcher building and fire extinguisher practice.

In March this year the Superintendent Emergency Manager for the city of Mihara, Shogo Kosako, began the exchange by visiting Palmerston North to see how New Zealand prepares for potential emergencies and how we are mitigating those risks.

Mihara and Palmerston North have similar populations and geography so our potential natural hazards are similar. The two cities are establishing a city-to-city partnership centred on areas of common interest including international education, business, sport, culture and emergency management.

Soon after Mr Kosako returned to Japan a major rainfall event occurred resulting in 200 fatalities and the evacuation of two million people over central and western

Japan, including Mihara.

Mr Davies reciprocated the visit to Mihara last month where he was shown how they operate in a disaster. Many of the residents live in homes on steep hills which means that they are often told to evacuate for any multitude of events. He was taken to schools and the airport which operate as welfare centres to see where they store bedding, food and water for everyone in major disasters.

The city also had their annual training day where the residents are taught skills like sandbagging, building stretchers and using fire extinguishers so they can help in emergencies. Young children were also taught how to call emergency services and had simulated phone calls with first responders.

Mr Davies says their approach is very different to New Zealand. He says in Japan it is in their culture to prepare for these events, whereas the challenge for New Zealand is to get everybody on board with this concept.



Above: Mihara locals learn how to make sandbags

Right: PNCC Emergency Manager Stewart Davies with city officials.



Gisborne focus for Gamagori photo competition

By David Puech & Paul Rickard

The Gisborne region was on display at the annual sister city photographic competition in Gamagori Japan.

David Puech took out the 18 years and over category for the 2018 Gisborne-New Zealand, Gamagori-Japan Photographic Competition with a sunset he captured at Waikanae Beach.

The same photo Mr Puech entered also won The Gisborne Herald's summer photo competition on Facebook earlier this year.

The public from each city votes for the winners of the other city's competition.

The 2018 theme for the 18th year of competition was The Young Ones.

Second place in the over-18-year-old category went to Ganapati Patil, and third to Tomomi Kato-Golding.

Eight-year-old Taane King won the under-18-year-old category with a photo of his baby cousin, while second place went to Erueti King and third Zoe Newman.

Highly commended were Erueti King and Ella-Korina Bolland.

The 2019 theme is Our Special Year, to fit with the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Captain James Cook.

Notes: The theme for Year 2018 was "the Young Ones" and this was also the 18th year the photos have been exchanged between the Sister Cities of Gamagori Japan and Gisborne NZ.

Each city votes for the photos of the other city by secret vote - best five photos of personal choice.



Taane King: 1st place "under 18" section.



Group placegetters with SC Committee Members Ann Osler & Jan Calder (back row).

Palmerston North Triathlete competes in Sagishima Triathlon

By Toni Grace, International Relations Manager, Palmerston North City Council

Palmerston North Triathlete David Martin travelled to the Japanese City of Mihara in August to compete in the Sagishima Triathlon. He came second overall and even set a new swim record.

David was invited and sponsored to the race by the Hiroshima New Zealand Friendship Society, which has been a big supporter of Palmerston North's developing relationship with Mihara City, in Hiroshima Prefecture.

David says the Triathlon was a great experience and a good build up for the World Champs on the Gold Coast which he represented New Zealand at. He was also very grateful for the hospitality and support he received from his hosts and the community in Mihara.

Palmerston North International Relations Manager, Toni Grace, says that the Sagishima Triathlon event is one of many growing connections between Palmerston North and Mihara.

"We were delighted that David was invited to participate and represent Palmerston North in the Sagishima Triathlon. Our city partnerships are strongest when there are people-to-people links, especially our common love of sports."



"Over the next few years the New Zealand's sporting relationship with Japan is going to be in the spotlight with the 2019 Rugby World Cup, 2020 Olympics and 2021 World Masters Games. Palmerston North is an active, sport-loving community, so it's great to reflect this in our city's international relations"

David's participation in the Sagishima triathlon also helped to boost publicity of the city's efforts to raise funds for Mihara, which was impacted by the major floods that hit Western Japan in July.



The Terracotta Warriors Have Arrived at Te Papa!

By Andrea Tandy, Te Papa

After travelling more than 10,000 kilometres from Xi'an, China, the 2,300-year-old terracotta warriors have arrived at Te Papa.

The imperial icons were welcomed on 22 November with a small informal blessing as each crate of precious cargo was brought into the national museum. A formal private pōwhiri and blessing will take place ahead of the public opening.

The unmissable exhibition *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* 秦始皇兵马俑:永恒的守护 opens on 15 December this year and runs through summer until 22 April 2019.

Until then, a team of Te Papa installers, mount makers, conservators, exhibition designers, curators, and technicians, alongside four colleagues from China, will be installing the ancient treasures in their new temporary home.

The exhibition features eight life-sized warriors and two horses. Also on show are over 160 exquisite treasures from imperial tombs in and around China's ancient capital, Xi'an.

Te Papa's Head of Art, Charlotte Davy, says: 'We're honoured to be the kaitiaki for these incredible works of art and to enable New Zealanders to come close to this ancient history.'

'I'm blown away by the epic stories behind these ancient items. It's awe-inspiring to think that they were created before the reign of the Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra, the construction of the Colosseum in Rome, and the major eruption of Taupō in New Zealand.'

Terracotta Warriors is the first international exhibition to be held in Te Papa's new art gallery, Toi Art, which opened to critical acclaim earlier this year.

Te Papa has commissioned a New Zealand artist to create an artwork in response to the visit of the ancient terracotta warriors from Xi'an.

Local artist Kerry Ann Lee has created the immersive installation *Return to Skyland*.

'It was important to us to have a contemporary response by a Chinese New Zealander, and to support the production of new artworks by New Zealand's best artists,' says Ms Davy.

Kerry Ann Lee's work is displayed within the exhibition space of *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality*.

Kerry Ann Lee – Return to Skyland

Inspired by the idea of physical and spiritual journeying, Wellingtonian Kerry Ann Lee has created a 'dreamscape transit lounge'. Visitors to *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* can enter her multimedia installation to

rest and reflect on their experience before continuing their journey through the exhibition.

Custom-designed wallpaper lines the room, created from images and illustrations from Chinese publications belonging to the artist's family.

The installation also features *Distant resonance*, 2018, a video work by Kerry Ann Lee that uses images of Chinese objects from Te Papa's collection. These are combined with lines from the poem 'Looking over Sian at night', 1954, by the New Zealand writer Rewi Alley, who lived in China for 60 years, becoming one of the country's best-known and best-loved foreigners.

Kerry Ann Lee's *Return to Skyland* offers a playful look at the idea of identity while also reflecting on the experience of Chinese settlement in New Zealand.

Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality

For more than 2,000 years, an underground army secretly guarded the tomb of Qin Shihuang, China's First Emperor. It was discovered by chance in 1974 by a farmer digging a well, and is one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century – an eighth wonder of the world.

