



# SISTER CITIES

## NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

### NEWSLETTER

### February 2019

## 2019 SCNZ Conference update: NZIER analysis and report to be released at conference

*Register Now*

By Toni Grace, Palmerston North City Council

**Participants are invited to register for the 2019 SCNZ Conference to be held in Palmerston North from 21-23 March. Early-bird rates end 1st March!**

The SCNZ Board is also pleased to announce that an updated analysis report on the economic benefits of Sister Cities will be launched and discussed at the conference. Make sure you register to take part in the valuable conversation about the reports findings and recommendations.

The report on “Maximising the economic outcomes of global city partnerships” is being produced by the New Zealand Institute for Economic Research (NZIER) and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Local Government New Zealand and Sister Cities New Zealand.



“In line with the conference theme Prosperity through Partnership the report has been commissioned to explore how New Zealand’s various international city partnerships can live up to their economic diplomacy and economic development potential”, says Toni

Grace of Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) and the SCNZ Board.

Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith says that conference 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 new forms of economic alliance, global city networks and other innovative forms of city or regional relationships.

Other sessions at the conference will discuss how Sister Cities can leverage the 2019 China NZ Year of Tourism and Japan Rugby World Cup, Olympic & World Masters Games, and also ways to cooperate with city partners on environmental issues and initiatives.

SCNZ and PNCC are 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), Orbit World Travel, Embassy of Japan, Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), the 2019 China New Zealand Year of Tourism (MBIE), Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) and Universal College of Learning (UCOL Palmerston North).

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

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

## New Zealand welcomes the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism 2019

By Katherine MacGregor, MBIE

**The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is proud to support the Sister Cities’ National Conference in March this year under the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism brand.**

The Year of Tourism is a cross-government bilateral initiative with China, with New Zealand’s activities coordinated by MBIE. Our key objective for the Year is to promote year round travel throughout New Zealand. This is a great opportunity for cities in New Zealand to further build economic and social relationships with their Sister

City counterparts in China based on tourism in both directions.

To find out more about the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism, to publicise China-related events in your regions, download practical resources, and to apply for use of the official Year of Tourism logo see [www.cnzyot.govt.nz](http://www.cnzyot.govt.nz).

If you would like to get involved please contact MBIE’s tourism policy team at [cnzyot@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:cnzyot@mbie.govt.nz).



## Rekindling friendships and strengthening ties between Whanganui and Japanese sister city Nagaizumi-cho

By Marianne Cavanagh, Whanganui District Council

**An official delegation from Whanganui's Japanese sister city Nagaizumi-cho visited Whanganui in January - further strengthening the 30-year relationship.**

The reciprocal visit follows the 30th anniversary of the sister-city relationship last year, with celebrations held in Nagaizumi-cho attended by an official Whanganui delegation.

The delegation to Whanganui included Nagaizumi Mayor Osamu Ikeda and his wife Yoshiko, Nagaizumi Chairman Hideki Uematsu, Nagaizumi Education Board Superintendent Nobuaki Ishii and General Affairs Department Manager Kazuo Shinohara.

Joining them for the official welcome and powhiri at the Whanganui-based New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy were officials from the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand, Sister Cities New Zealand and representatives from the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in Sydney.

The delegation's itinerary included visits to schools that host students from Japan, industry site visits to major Whanganui manufacturers, a picnic at the Japanese Tea House (which was gifted to Whanganui by Nagaizumi-cho several years ago and is now established at Bason Botanic Gardens), scenic flights and a cruise on the Whanganui River on the Motor Vessel Wairua, which is one of the original riverboats that plied the river in the early 1900s. The delegation even had a chance to take the helm of the riverboat!

The delegation also visited New Zealand Glassworks (New Zealand's national centre for glass) and Quartz, Museum of Ceramics, which houses more than 400 ceramic works.

The visit was also an opportunity to rekindle friendships made during the 30th anniversary celebrations, with an informal dinner between the Japanese visitors and members of the official Whanganui delegation who visited Nagaizumi-cho in August last year.



Clockwise from top left: The official welcome at the New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy, based at Whanganui Airport; Mayor Osamu Ikeda gives the thumbs up before take-off on his scenic flight over Whanganui; The delegation enjoying a cruise on the Whanganui River on the Wairua - one of the original riverboats that operated on the river in the early 1900s; Mayor Osamu Ikeda and his wife Yoshiko at the wheel of the riverboat; The delegation was treated to a game of cricket led by Whanganui Mayor



## South Island Lantern Festival – 22-24 February 2019

By Bernard Duncan, Christchurch China Sister City Committee

**The Lantern festival was developed by Christchurch as an event to celebrate the Chinese New Year.**

It is now the largest and most comprehensive celebration of the Chinese people and their culture in the South Island. 40,000 to 50,000 people come to experience the great food culture and performing arts of both local and international Chinese artists.

The event is free to the public and held in the early evening over three days along the Avon River in the CBD. There will be two fixed outdoor stages for performances and traditional Chinese food will be available from local vendors. A highlight of the event is the many lanterns reflecting elements of Chinese culture displayed all over

the festival site. These glow in all their glory as the night darkens.

The Christchurch China Sister City Committee is fully involved with the festival. Reflecting the 35 year relationship the city has with Gansu Province, twelve performers and a 'paper cut' expert will be flying in from Gansu for the festival. The committee will also have a stand at the festival to describe its activities. A replica of the ancient Wuhan bells will also be on display. This was a gift from the city of Wuhan to Christchurch at the time this relationship was established.

[> Click to learn more about this event](#)

## Asia NZ Foundation Leadership Network applications open now

By Ryan Smith, Asia NZ Foundation

The Leadership Network equips New Zealand's best and brightest to thrive in Asia. We support members to achieve, lead and learn about Asia so that New Zealand can succeed in this fascinating, challenging and important region. If you are between 20 and 30 and committed to building New Zealand-Asia relations, we want to support you to become the best leader you can be with the ultimate aim of building your confidence to thrive in and with Asia. Our network is diverse, global, driven, innovative and ambitious – all the best qualities that Kiwis possess.

[> Learn more and apply now on the Asia NZ Foundation website](#)



## Tempe & Lower Hutt Sister Cities gift doll to young hospital patient

By Paul Duffin, Hutt Sister City Foundation.

**On Friday 11 January the directors of Tempe Sister City and their Lower Hutt counterparts delivered a surgery companion doll to Hutt Hospital children's ward to help a young patient.**

The doll will be given to a girl who has visited the hospital for several things including a cleft palate.

It was made by 10-year-old Stitches by Charlotte founder Charlotte Gould who is from Arizona and had to undergo four surgeries after she was born with a cleft palate.

Stitches by Charlotte was created after Charlotte received a sewing machine for Christmas. She has spent

countless hours over the past 2 years designing, sewing and selling dolls, then gifting proceeds to cleft charities.

Charlotte sewed her first doll to look just like her— long brown braids, glasses, a sweet smile with a tiny scar.

She received so much positive feedback for making a doll that was perfectly imperfect that she began to discover a passion for making dolls with differences. From a doll with a scar across her chest, to a doll with a crown of stitches.

The dolls come with a small sewing needle and thread to customise for the patient.



David Carerra (from Tempe), Suzi Duffin, Deanna Carerra (from Tempe), Sagni Prasad (Clinical Nurse Manager), Paul Duffin and HVDHB interim chief executive Dale Oliff