



# SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

## NEWSLETTER

February 2020

### From the SCNZ board

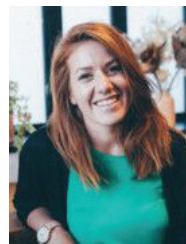
#### Sister Cities New Zealand - Statement on Coronavirus Outbreak

Sister Cities New Zealand would like to express our sincerest condolences to the city and people of Wuhan, and to all of New Zealand's other Sister Cities in China, during the difficulties presented by the coronavirus outbreak.

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the outbreak and commend authorities working together to address the serious health challenges which have merged. We respect China's timely response in containing the contagion and the transparency of the process. Being part of the sister city community, it is our responsibility to reach out to love them and support them in any way we can.

International ties between New Zealand and China, have brought many cultural and economic benefits to all parties. We look forward to seeing these Sister City ties continue to develop in the future.

#### Introducing Kate Spence



The Board of SCNZ is pleased to announce that Kate Spence has been appointed as SCNZ Social Media Advisor.

Kate is a marketing manager for Vital Health Company NZ, a health company specialising in health products and supplements.

She graduated from University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Science and Postgraduate diploma in Journalism. Having worked in business and in the public sector, she is passionate about community-based committees that work together with both the public and private sector to achieve great results.

Her experiences being on the Christchurch Kurashiki Sub-Committee, as well as various other local community-based committees, have given her many opportunities to learn about NZ's international community.

### Chief Executive's Message - SCNZ Conference 2020

By Hamish Riach, Ashburton District Council



**The countdown to the 2020 Sister Cities Conference is ticking down fast, and our excitement to host you all in the Ashburton District is growing more and more each day.**

The high quality speakers, insights and networking opportunities on offer are sure to be a rewarding experience, made even better set against the beautiful backdrop of our part of Canterbury.

For those who have never had a chance to visit Mid-Canterbury, we are an innovative agricultural community, home to amazing landscapes and adventure activities such as the world-class Mt Hutt ski fields, stunning lakes and braided rivers. We are conveniently placed only an hour's drive from Christchurch, with the Pacific Ocean on the

front step and the Southern Alps at our back door.

We also take great pride in celebrating our cultural diversity, and are an accredited Welcoming Community.

One issue of growing interest to cities and regions across the country is how to enable communities to flourish in the global marketplace. We will explore this at the Sister Cities Conference through our theme, 'Growing Cultural Diversity in the Regions'. It will look at the ways cities, towns and regional centres can play their part in supporting international connectivity, trade business and innovation.

I'm sure you will gain invaluable experiences and insights at this year's conference, and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all. I hope you'll enjoy the amazing opportunities and sights our district has on offer.

See you all in Ashburton in April for the 2020 Sister Cities Conference.

**SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE**  
**Growing Cultural Diversity in Regions**

Ashburton, 30 April - 2 May 2020

[Programme](#)

[Rates & Information](#)

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## Introducing New Council Member: Tararua District Council A District Steeped in Culture

By Angela Rule, Tararua District Council

**Situated on the south-east coast of the North Island, Tararua District is steeped in culture with two local iwi and four significant cultural connections to European countries.**

There are five main townships – Pahiatua, Eketahuna, Norsewood, Woodville and Dannevirke – and each town has a proud heritage with many stories to tell and experiences to share.

Pahiatua is proud to have provided refuge for the 733 Polish children and their 105 guardians who were relocated to a camp in Pahiatua in 1944 during World War II. Most of these children stayed in New Zealand through to adulthood and an enduring and endearing relationship between Pahiatua and Poland exists to the present day. The NZ Polish Association will be contributing a memorial for installation as a part of the current project to upgrade the Pahiatua town centre.

Norsewood has a strong Norwegian history. The children at Norsewood and Districts School regularly participate in traditional Norwegian dancing and the Norwegian government gifted a replica fishing boat to the community on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Norsewood's founding. Additionally, Johanna's world features a replica Norwegian log cottage and the first and only Stave Church in the

Southern Hemisphere.

Woodville is home to the Gottfried Lindauer Replica Studio. Born in Plzen (Pilsen, Czechoslovakia), Lindauer began his voyage to New Zealand in 1874, thinking he was on a ship to America. In 1890 he purchased a ten acre block near Woodville. He died in 1926 and is buried in the Woodville Old Gorge Cemetery. Lindauer is known for his exquisitely realistic paintings of New Zealand Maori, 70 of these paintings are in the Auckland City Art Gallery and approximately 20 are in the Wanganui Art Museum.



Dannevirke was founded by Scandinavian immigrants, who were immigrated to New Zealand by the government in 1872 to fell the forest that covered much of southern Hawke's Bay and to farm the cleared land. Previously known as Seventy Mile Bush, the town was settled by thirteen Danish and six Norwegian families in 1872 and 1873, who renamed it Dannevirke which means, literally, 'Danes' Work'.

Tararua District Council is embarking on a journey to understand the mutual benefits between the local towns and their international counterparts. The Council is exploring how they can best grow these relationships – whether that be through tourism, education or commercial trade.

## Canterbury Region Sister City Forum

By Bernard Duncan, SCNZ Director

**A policy of the Sister Cities Board is to use a regional forum format to bring those together who are active in Sister Cities across a region to share experiences to help one another with their activities.**

This is particularly important following local authority elections when there are often new councillors and others who have had little exposure to the Sister City movement.

In late January it was the turn of the Canterbury region to have such a forum. Thirty-five people from Hurunui to Ashburton attended, including some Councillors and the new Hurunui Mayor Marie Black.

The forum was opened by the Christchurch Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner who spelled out how important strong Sister City relationships were to Christchurch. Board

member Bernard Duncan then spoke about the history of the Sister City movement with relationships in the modern era being formed as early as 1905. He indicated that New Zealand had 160 relationships with 40 countries and that worldwide 12,600 cities and towns in 165 countries have 16,490 Sister City relationships. In closing he gave examples of common interests that bring cities and towns together.

Next up was the International Manager for the Christchurch City Council Matt Nichols. He described how over the last year Christchurch has completed a programme of consultation with organisations across the city who connect internationally to redefine how the city sets priorities for building high value connections across the world. Of course Christchurch's sister city relations

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have a part to play in this programme.

Sister Cities NZ President Hiromi Morris spoke next and gave an outline of hers and the Boards' activities. One of these is to try and have a closer working relationship with Sister Cities Australia and to create opportunities to attend each other's activities.

Sister City activity is well supported by a range of organisations so those attending then heard from CLAIR (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations) Sydney, a Japanese organisation who support relationships with Japanese cities and the Consul General from the Chinese Consulate in Christchurch who over the years have been very supportive of relationships with cities and towns in China and in fact have helped identify Chinese cities when a local town has been wanting to set up a new relationship.

It was then the turn of those attending to share their experiences. Representatives from the Councils across the Canterbury region showcased a range of their activities while the chairs of the Christchurch Sister City committees also gave presentations. These demonstrated how widely connected Canterbury is across the world. While there are many relationships in our region with China, Australia, Japan and the USA, there are also connections with Indonesia and

England. A general discussion followed around how to find a good connection and how to set it up and then what to do about a relationship where one or both parties have lost interest in continuing.

The last speaker was Bevan Rickerby, the Economic Development Manager from the Ashburton District Council who spoke about what Ashburton has organised for the 2020 Sister Cities NZ Annual Conference to be held in that city from 30<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A video was shown and those present were strongly encouraged to attend.

In closing Board member Sister Cities NZ Board member Donna Favel wrapped up the Forum with a summary of the more interesting elements of the afternoon and encouraged all to attend the coming conference.



## Central New Zealand Networking Evening

By Ray Wallace, SCNZ Vice President

**The Sister Cities Central New Zealand Networking forum was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February with members of the Diplomatic Corp, LGNZ, CLAIR Sydney, Government Agencies, Mayors, Councillors and Officers along with several community groups in attendance.**

The theme of the evening was to share ideas, learn more from President Hiromi Morris about Sister Cities New Zealand and what it can do to assist groups and organisations. Ambassadors from Japan, Philippines, Vietnam and Peru spoke of opportunities they would like to see in creating new relationships but also in

strengthening existing ones. The Philippines Ambassador to New Zealand Jesus (Gary) Domingo said it was important to look at 'Citizen to Citizen' diplomacy and would bring a discussion document to the next forum. Ambassadors of Vietnam and Peru were particularly interested in hearing from towns and cities interested in a new relationship. School to School relationships were discussed as a good beginning.

The community groups shared their views on how they were keeping people passionate about the relationships and there was open and frank discussion about how some relationships are struggling or now dormant. Others shared how they had reactivated relationships.

Organiser, SCNZ Vice President Ray Wallace said he was thrilled with the turnout and how the evening had gone. "Clearly our sister relationships are all about people and that's the key to all good relationships."

This would be the start of many networking forums.





## Tendo delegation celebrates with Marlborough

By Cathie Bell, Marlborough Sister City Committee

**A delegation of 21 people from Tendo in Japan celebrated the 30 year anniversary of the sister city agreement between Tendo and Blenheim at a formal dinner in Blenheim in late January.**

The delegation, led by education board chairman Mr Kazuhiko Aizawa, also spent a busy three days in Marlborough, being welcomed on to the local Omaka Marae, opening the new Torii style Gateway and fencing at the Japanese Gardens at Blenheim's Harling Park, visiting Japanese-owned Kimura Cellars to taste their wines, shopping in Picton, and being hosted at the Marlborough District Council Chambers.

The well-attended dinner was hosted by Marlborough deputy mayor Mrs Nadine Taylor, and guests included the Tendo delegation, SCNZ President Mrs Hiromi Morris, Embassy of Japan official Mr Taro Sawada, and former Blenheim mayor Mr Leo McKendry, who signed the sister city agreement with Tendo in 1989.

The agreement was initially driven by Marlborough cherry growers interested in exporting to Japan, but has evolved to focus on cultural and education links.

Mr McKendry said he was "thrilled" at how the agreement

was still active, and how it had led to ongoing annual exchanges of secondary school students.

Mrs Taylor told the delegation that the sister-city relationship between Tendo and Blenheim was important to the district.

The student exchanges were highly valued, she said.

Citizens of Tendo had financially contributed to the landscaping and building of structures within the Japanese Gardens in Harling Park, one of the more popular parks in Blenheim. The original landscape architect Mr Takahisa Yamaguchi, who is still offering advice on the project, was part of the Tendo delegation and with Mrs Taylor officially opened the Torii style Gateway and fencing during the delegation's visit.

Council sister city subcommittee chairman and Marlborough District Councillor Mr Gerald Hope said Marlborough had three high-quality sister city agreements. The quality of the agreements was shown by the longevity of the agreement with Tendo, reaching 30 years.

"May it last another 30, and more."



The Tendo delegation at Omaka Marae in Blenheim, during a visit to celebrate 30 years of the sister city relationship between Tendo and Blenheim.



Takahisa Yamaguchi and Nadine Taylor at the Torii Gateway

## Ties and Togetherness: My Connection with Tendo

By Aaron Liew, Former SCNZ Youth Subcommittee Member



**Coming back to New Zealand after four years living in Tendo, Yamagata as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) through JET (Japan Exchange Teaching) Programme, I had learned that the ties and connections with Blenheim and the Marlborough area were strong and very much active.**

Prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Blenheim, the only connections I had with the Marlborough area were meeting the councillors, teachers and students that

were involved with the school exchange programme, and driving through after getting off the ferry. Every time the students and teachers came back from New Zealand after visiting Marlborough, they always spoke highly of the area. It had made me want to visit the area for a long time and I finally got my chance.

Thanks to Sister Cities New Zealand and Marlborough District Council for the opportunity to be part of celebrating 30 strong years of ties and togetherness that Tendo and Marlborough has achieved. I was able to meet the large delegation from Tendo the day I arrived.

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Unbeknownst to me, I did not know who was coming and hoped I at least knew one person. Luckily, I knew a good handful of people, and people from the delegation had heard of me during my time in Tendo. I was very happy to see the leader of the delegation, Kazuhiko Aizawa, who was a school principal during my time in Tendo and is now the Superintendent of the Board of Education. We were able to catch up and see how much change in Tendo had over the course of 5+ years.

To my surprise, two former teachers who I had the pleasure of working with also came. It was really great to see Kumiko Aizawa (wife of Kazuhiko) and Takako Ono. It was like I never left. Other than filling in the blanks with work and personal life, we talked as if we saw each other the other day. It just did not stop!

I was also able to talk to others from the delegation such as the wife of the Mayor of Tendo and the architect who oversaw and designed Harling Park, which felt like I never left the city. This is just a reflection of how well each city are open to communication and bringing people together.

Apart from the great food and wine from the cities, the wonderful people of Tendo and Marlborough have made the longstanding relationship what it is today. It is easy to see the similarities between the two and how the sister city relationship is still what it is today 30 years on. With a tremendous foundation that Grahame Barsanti, the Marlborough District Council and Tendo City has laid down, I hope the strong ties and relationship between Marlborough and Tendo carry on for another 30 years.

## Mishima Sister City Garden Visit to New Plymouth: Community-to-Community Connection

By Lynn Murray, Convenor

**This 2019 visit of a group from Mishima, Japan to New Plymouth was the result of a private trip I made to Mishima in 2018.**

I had taken with me a brochure from the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival as the organising committee had a real desire to host this group of people from Japan.

It was not a sister city to sister city exchange through the Councils but rather a sister city exchange between friends and surely that is what the whole focus should be about - a private visit using the platform that is available.

I hired a van so we could all be together and to answer any questions that may arise. Our time was very short only having one full day plus the half day when they arrived so I planned to see as much as possible in a short time. Some of the seven people had been to New Plymouth before which meant that I needed to be aware of what they may have seen.

I included seven gardens which were recommended by the Fringe Garden personnel and they gave us a perfect mix of small and big, and country and town. We managed to visit two places that were not gardens. One was a painter and the other was a ceramic artist, both displaying Taranaki wares.

We got to see the coastline, the mountain and some cows and sheep much to the delight of one of the members who was a farmer.

With only two nights available for meals, we spent the first night having dinner with the Fringe Garden Chairman and his wife and the secretary at the hotel where the group stayed, while the second night was dinner at my place. A proper Kiwi meal. No, not fish and chips but I did make a pavlova!

I enjoyed arranging this small visit and I'm sure everyone had a vacation to remember.

The Mishima delegation extended their journey to Wellington for a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Kobayashi.



Mishima delegation with Lynn Murray (second from right) standing with Ann Clough, Secretary of the Fringe Garden Committee



Mishima delegation at Japanese Ambassador's Residence





Cr Sandra Faulkner, Donna Jean & Keith Darby, Simon Cave (GDSC) and Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga (Photo: Liam Clayton)

## Sister Cities on the Seven Seas

By Jan Calder, Secretary Gisborne District Sister Cities

**The Palm Desert Sister City Foundation (PDSCF) former President, Donna Jean and her husband Keith Darby were welcomed by Gisborne District Sister Cities (GDSC) Committee, some other long established friends and also friends to be in Gisborne on January 23<sup>rd</sup> by way of “the Voyager” of the Regent Seven Seas Cruise Line.**

Donna Jean, supported by her husband, has been a very active member including past Chair of the PDSCF and has visited Gisborne twice since the 90's, the last visit as part of a Delegation in late 2011 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this Sister City relationship.

The Darbys have also actively supported various delegations as well as sport, cultural, educational, commercial and professional individuals during exchanges and visits..

Amongst her many talents, Donna Jean is an avid supporter of sister city projects and one of major interest to Gisborne students was the joint student study exchange over two weeks in 2011 based on the book *The Boy Who Conquered Everest – the Jordan Romero Story*.

Wainui Beach School Gisborne Year 4 (supporting teacher Storm Dunn), Gisborne Intermediate Year 5 (supporting teacher Anna Wright) and Abraham Lincoln School in Palm Desert, California Grades 1-5 took part in a joint course of study based on the above mentioned book. The opportunity for both teachers to work with a Palm Desert School was not new territory for Storm and Anna as they had both attended Palm Desert McCallum Theatre Aesthetic Education Programme previously through the GDSC link with PDSCF and McCallum Theatre.

Donna Jean Darby was the instigator of this book study course and liaised with GDSC Committee member Ann Osler, staff and classes of both schools. Based on goal setting and strategies, the course utilised Skype and email to facilitate interaction between Palm Desert and Gisborne students and this culminated in an appearance

by Jordan Romero at the McCallum Theatre for a Q&A session in October 2011.

During the PDSCF Delegation visit of 2011, Donna Jean was able to visit the two schools and reinforce the success of the study by announcing that PDSCF was selected by USASC as the recipient for ‘the Program Innovation, Youth and Education, Cities of less than 100,000 pop’ as a result of the study.

During their day visit to Gisborne the Darbys chose to visit Eastwoodhill Arboretum for the third time and returned to enjoy the hospitality of GDSC Committee, some old friends and were introduced to new friends including the Gisborne District Council representatives on the GDSC Committee. Gifts were exchanged, speeches were made, good Gisborne wine and food was tasted and very soon it was time for the Darbys to catch the last lighter back to *the Voyager* and sail overnight for Napier.

As Gisborne and Palm Desert will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary over the next two years plans are being prepared for delegation visits and some form of practical experience to benefit the residents of the two cities and mark the event.



R.S.S. Cruise Line Voyager - the Darbys' home on the high seas viewed from Midway Beach

## Japanese Kyudo (Archery) in New Zealand

By Fumiko Sato, Sakai Kyudo Association Principal & NZ Kyudo Federation Advisor

**The origin of New Zealand Kyudo is the friendship and exchange between Wellington and its Japanese Sister City, Sakai in Osaka which marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.**

It expanded to an establishment of NZ Kyudo Federation and the Federation was celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Auckland last month.

I started visiting New Zealand to participate in the Japan Festival in Christchurch in 1990 and continued participating in the Wellington Japan Festival and Wellington Sakai Association's Cherry Blossom Festival with my fellow Kyudo sensei (teachers).

In 2005, Wellington Kyudo Club was established by using my donated Kyudo equipment. Hutt Minoh Friendship House provided the venue.

Through these visits, I have learnt that a 5<sup>th</sup> dan practitioner emigrated from Europe many years ago, formed a Kyudo Club in Christchurch and began training diligently.

It is becoming obvious that a proper dojo was necessary as Kyudo practitioners have increased particularly in Auckland

and this was constructed there in 2008.

In 2010 the first NZ Kyudo seminar was held in Auckland with support from the All Nippon Kyudo Federation and the NZ Kyudo Federation was officially established as well.

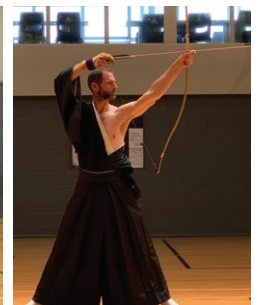
There are now four clubs in New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Palmerston North. The NZ Kyudo Federation holds annual seminar in January every year with special guest instructors from Japan who support NZ Kyudo by sharing their knowledge and skill.

We have had about 60 instructors over the last 10 years.

For enquiries, please visit our website, [New Zealand Kyudo Federation](http://NewZealandKyudoFederation.com).



Fumiko Sato, 6<sup>th</sup> from right in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row



## Welcome Home, JET Participants!

By Xan Wetherall, Japan Information and Cultural Centre Wellington

**On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Hiroyasu Kobayashi hosted a Welcome Back Reception, or “Okaerinasai-kai” at his residence in Khandallah to fête the return of Wellington-based Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme participants who completed their tenure on the Programme in 2019.**

Eight newly-returned JET participants were able to attend, alongside more than thirty members of Wellington's JET and Japan-related community, including Green Party MP and JET alumnus Jan Logie, SCNZ President Hiromi Morris, Director of CLAIR Sydney Hiroto Akaiwa, Ray Wallace and Linda Goss-Wallace of the Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust, and local JET alumni.

Every year, around 100 New Zealand citizens depart the country for Japan after being accepted for participation in the JET Programme living everywhere from the metropolitan capitol of Tokyo, to the rural countryside of Hokkaido. Many of these Japanese placement locations

also share sister city relationships with New Zealand towns and cities. Of the eight JETs that attended the Welcome Back Reception, three of them had the opportunity to live in one of these places. Two taught in Shinagawa, Tokyo, which shares a relationship with Auckland, and one lived and worked in Minoh City, the sister city of Lower Hutt in the Wellington region.

Otsukaresama, and a job well done to all returned JET Programme alumni! We hope to see some of you joining in on sister city projects in the near future.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for the New Zealand JET Programme, please feel free to reach out to us by e-mail ([jicc@wl.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jicc@wl.mofa.go.jp)) or phone (04-495-8333) for more information.

We're eager to send as many Kiwis as we can to Japan each year!

Applications for the 2021 New Zealand JET Programme intake cycles are open every year from September to November.

For more information, please see our [New Zealand JET Programme website](http://NewZealandJETProgramme.com) or [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/newzealandjetprogramme).



Newly-returned JET participants with Ambassador of Japan, Mr Hiroyasu Kobayashi