

From the Board

Kia ora koutou GCNZ members.

As the COVID-19 pandemic wave continues, the GCNZ Board recently made the difficult decision to postpone the planned April Blenheim conference to 2023. In any case, this does align with the intention of the Board to transition GCNZ to a 2-yearly conference cycle from next year, with a smaller one-day forum event every other year, as requested by member feedback. We do appreciate your continued support and understanding in these challenging times.

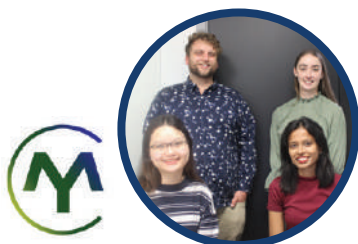
In better news, we do have a very special GCNZ forum to look forward to at the end of the year... In November in Wellington, GCNZ will host an event at Parliament's

Grand Hall to not only celebrate our members' special sister city milestones, but also mark the anniversaries of several key diplomatic relationships with New Zealand including the U.S.A. (80 years), Japan (70 years), South Korea (60 years) and China (50 years). Sister City connections and people-to-people links have been a vital part of these diplomatic relationships, so this will be a great opportunity to celebrate our global friendships and the members and stakeholders who have been part of it all.

Save the date!

Ngā mihi nui

New Member: Manawatū Young Chamber



By Ramola Duncan, MYC Chair & Advisor

Manawatū Young Chamber is a part of Manawatū Business Chamber. It supports youth development and youth participation by creating an environment for sharing knowledge and expertise within the business community in the Manawatū region.

Young Chamber aims to be the hub of information, building connections and developing professional skills by connecting students, young professionals and businesses through collaboration and development opportunities.

As a one-stop shop for young people, the Chamber is partnering with other local organisations to provide insight and information about enterprise, governance, employability, and partnership through our monthly events.

The board comprises Ramola Duncan - Chair & Advisor, Sarah Ma - Vice Chair, Nelson Harper and Ella Moffat.

Manawatū Young Chamber are excited about the future of Global Cities New Zealand (GCNZ) as a new member. The organisation has always been an important role in strengthening the connections between New Zealand's cities, communities, and the world.

With the existing sister cities that New Zealand and the Manawatū region are maintaining, Young Chamber is looking forward to having more people-to-people connections with our sister cities in not only business but also in education and cultural exchange.

New National Administrator

GCNZ would like to introduce our new National Administrator, **Karyn Lo**.

Jess Skinner relocated away from Wellington and Karyn took over the role in December as a temporary assignment until the end of May. Please see Karyn's profile below.

Karyn is a Wellingtonian with an academic background in Japanese and Zoology. After completing her postgraduate diploma in Museum Studies, she is now continuing her studies with a Masters' thesis. Her research focuses on sister city relationships between Japan and Aotearoa New Zealand, and one of her key research interests is examining how these international relationships affect the museum and heritage industry as well as their local communities.

Karyn is passionate about the benefits of fostering international relationships for the local community and its potential for the arts and heritage sector, and is excited to be part of the work that Global Cities New Zealand does for Aotearoa.

Alongside her studies she is also working as a preservation technician at Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga. She is a member of the New Zealand Kyudo Federation and stays involved in the JET programme as an alumni.



To learn more about the GCNZ Board please visit globalcities.org.nz/board

Good things come in threes

By Palmerston North City Council

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Palmerston North has many reasons to celebrate in 2022—a new international relations team that has doubled in size, and two sister city anniversaries.

After the departure of the legendary Toni Grace – the first-ever International Relations Manager at Palmerston North City Council – most international activities went into hibernation for six months.

In recognising the important role of international relations to the city, Palmerston North City Council has welcomed not only a new International Relations Manager – Gabrielle Nguyen, but also a new International Relations and Education Advisor – Kate Harridge, to manage the city's international education portfolio. The team started in mid-November 2021 and have reconnected with all Palmerston North's global partner cities and other key stakeholders. Both Gabrielle and Kate have a strong background in international education, global engagement, and international networking. Palmerston North City Council's new international relations team are passionate about utilising city-to-city connections and the soft diplomacy power of international education to create a vibrant community of global citizens and vigorous economic development for Palmy.

In 2022, Palmerston North celebrates two milestone sister



You can't beat Palmy on a good day! Cuba Street humming in the sunshine. Photo: Alexander Robertson, Imaging and Content Specialist, Palmerston North City Council

city anniversaries – 30 years of partnership with Guiyang, Guizhou Province, China and 40 years of partnership with Missoula, Montana, USA. These cities have the longest history with Palmerston North and the relationships have withstood the test of time. Conversations of bilateral celebration activities commenced in December 2021 and Palmerston North has worked with our counterparts in Guiyang and Missoula to create a calendar of exciting events, kicking off in March 2022. The emphasis of this year's activities is on community engagement and deepening the sister city relationships by furthering cooperation and collaboration in existing fields as well as exploring future opportunities.

#PalmyProud

Nelson to champion Hubei-New Zealand Week

By Barbara Markland, President Nelson Branch NZCFS

After the difficulty of maintaining substantial sister-city links during the pandemic Nelson Branch NZ-China Friendship Society is delighted to have been invited to participate in a significant event in Hubei Province in China—Huangshi City and Nelson having a long-established relationship.

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between New Zealand and China, also the 125th birthday of New Zealander and friend of China, Rewi Alley, who made a great contribution to the people of Hubei Province.

In order to enhance friendships between the people of New Zealand and Hubei, there will be a Hubei-New Zealand Week which includes a series of activities in Hubei to commemorate the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley, and Nelson Branch NZCFS has been asked to cooperate, and will do so by

- Sending digitally 10 paintings themed “the same white cloud, the same blue sky” by Nelson children. The paintings will be exhibited in related city libraries and primary and secondary schools in Wuhan and some other cities of Hubei province in late May during the New Zealand Week period. After that those paintings will be permanently collected by the Hubei Provincial Library. A local intermediate school has agreed to

participate and the original paintings will be displayed in Nelson during China Week in September.

- Inviting the Mayor of Nelson to attend a joint video conference, probably in May, of Hubei-New Zealand sister cities and deliver a speech, discussing how to deepen friendly exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.
- Recommending a primary school or middle school in Nelson to exchange with one in Huangshi and sign a Letter of Intent for Friendly Communication on the joint video conference.

We have been advised that during the New Zealand Week period, ‘re-walking the road that Rewi Alley had walked’ will take place in the Bund Park in Wuhan, which Clare Fearnley, New Zealand Ambassador to China, relatives of Rewi Alley, representatives of New Zealand students in Hubei, representatives of New Zealand enterprises in Hubei, and officials of Hubei will all attend and walk 1250 steps to commemorate the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley. Also a joint seminar themed by “Opportunities and challenges of economic and trade cooperation between central China and New Zealand under RCEP framework” will be held in Wuhan in late May, which concerned specialists, scholars, entrepreneurs and friendly personages will attend and give speeches.

Cambridge Community Board commemorates 70 years of diplomatic relationships with Japan

By Alana MacKay, Cambridge Community Board

The Cambridge Community Board was excited to receive a request from the NZ Embassy in Tokyo (via Global Cities NZ) to help commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relationships with a short Japanese language video message.

The 60 second limit was a challenge, but we managed to cover the basics on how our Sister City relationship with Bihoro, Hokkaido, began in 1997. October 12 is our 25th Anniversary.

In 1992 a Bihoro resident, Professor Masaharu Yamaki was holidaying in New Zealand. He liked Cambridge and decided he would approach the Waipa District Council about being Sister Cities with Bihoro. A formal agreement was signed in 1997.

After this Masaharu gifted \$NZ10,000 to advance the relationship, this now helps pay for expenses when students travel between Cambridge and Bihoro for school exchanges.

We have visits every two years, all visitors are home hosted to provide a full experience in each other's culture.

We also have been successful in having some trade in agricultural machinery, as well as Mr Takanori Toyoshima come to Cambridge for three months and volunteering to teach Japanese.

All these have helped us bond with our Bihoro friends and we look forward to continuing our special relationship. If you would like to view the video it is available here:

Japanese with English subtitles:
fb.watch/bTzfzT0AiS

English with Japanese subtitles:
fb.watch/bTzvh_MsHB

Big thanks to Matt Hicks Media Productions for doing this for us, and to our video stars Grahame and Ayako. This project has inspired us to learn and share more about the history of our relationship with Bihoro, which we are doing through our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Bihoro-Sister-Cities-104403718515653 thanks to the archives of the Cambridge Museum.

Above right: Article from the Cambridge Edition 15.4.1993. The original caption reads: 'Community Board chairman Pat Allen applauds Masue and Masaharu Yamaki for their hearty rendition of God Defend NZ in Maori.'



Simon Cave awarded GDSC Life Membership

By Jan Calder, GDSC Secretary

Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Chair Jim Osler and Gisborne District Sister Cities Committee were very pleased to have the opportunity to make a well-earned presentation of Life Membership of the Gisborne District Sister Cities to Simon Cave on 16th December 2021.

At a function held at The Works restaurant we heard an impressive and amusing range of anecdotes from Carolyn and Simon who were accompanied by their son Hamish Cave.

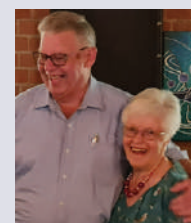
Simon has long been a supporter of Gisborne District Sister Cities, firstly as a member of Gisborne District Council from 1989 then after retirement from Council continuing as a committee member of the Gisborne District Sister Cities (GDSC) serving for a time as Vice

President. The committee have been well served by his knowledge, experience and advice.

Simon's wife Caroline has always supported GDSC and as a couple they have been included in several delegations to Japan and China which included Sister City relationship signings with Nonoichi Japan on 30th March 1990, Rizhau China on 3rd August 1995 and Gamagori on 27th July 1996.

Before retiring to Wainui Beach, Simon and Caroline along with family members hosted delegations to Sunworth, their family farm at Ngātapa. Simon, who has dedicated many years to several organizations including Federated Farmers as the provincial President, has the natural skills to make any visit to Sunworth an enjoyable occasion never to forget. Recently during a Zoom with Nonoichi City one of the Nonoichi City Hall dignitaries recognised Simon and excitedly regaled his visit to the Caves' farm as part of a delegation some years before.

We thank Simon and Caroline for their consistent support and look forward to sharing many more Sister City experiences with them.



Caroline shares many of their anecdotes with Ch Jim Osler & committee.

Photos: Ann Osler



Front: Caroline & Simon, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Jim Osler
Back: Shingo Suematsu, Hazel Wooding, Ray Gowland, Ann Osler



NMIT Viticulture joint project with Ningxia, China

By Pam Wood, Curriculum Manager, Primary Industries, NMIT

NMIT's Viticulture and Wine School has been working with the Ningxia University of Agriculture in Yinchuan City, Ningxia Province on a joint project for the past three years.

In late 2019, two cohorts of students visited Marlborough for short study tours in viticulture and wine, and in horticulture. Ningxia students and staff felt warmly welcomed by the NMIT team and the local community and they were able to visit many local vineyards, wineries and horticultural operations. They fell in love with Makana Chocolate and returned to China with overladen bags due to the chocolate and wine they had purchased whilst here. As NMIT staff, we thoroughly enjoyed our visitors and many long term friendships have been formed.

It was the intention to follow the study tours with a more formalised arrangement to share the delivery of our degrees, however unfortunately COVID-19 arrived as the students returned to China and clearly we have had to push pause on moving forwards over much of 2020 and 2021. However, we are delighted that we have reconvened our working party and are now well down the pathway to finalising a new agreement which is currently being presented to the regional governor and the Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges in the Ministry of Education, China for consideration. We have support from the Office of the

Major in Marlborough, along with NMIT and the Ningxia University.

Our proposal is to deliver the NMIT Bachelor of Viticulture and Wine in partnership with the Ningxia University – one third taught on site in China by their staff, one third taught in China by our NMIT staff, and the final third taught on the NMIT Campus in Blenheim. Learners will complete the essential winery placement whilst up in China, but will take on their vineyard industry practice hours in Marlborough, during their first spring in order to appreciate the very different context of growing in NZ compared to the growing methods in the Ningxia region where the vines are buried below the ground for winter and are dug up each spring ready for the growing season.

We are enthusiastic to see this arrangement gain the necessary approvals and hope to send our first cohort of staff to China in September 2022, which means the first students will arrive in Marlborough in spring 2024 – potentially a great partnership that will provide a wonderful learning experience for the Ningxia students along with a valuable learning and teaching experience for our staff who go to China for their teaching blocks. We are thrilled with the timing of the redevelopment of our Budge Street campus and believe this project will assist in bringing new students to the campus."





Kiwi Party at a Japanese - style hotel (Ryokan) in Minoh



New Zealand Wine Bar at the Multi-ethnic festival by the MAFGA

Minoh Hutt Friendship Club - Connection and Exchanges with JET Programme Participants

By Miyoko Rokkaku, Vice President

Minoh Hutt Friendship Club Outline

Minoh City, Osaka Prefecture and Lower Hutt City signed an international cooperation city agreement in 1995. The Minoh Hutt Friendship Club was established in 1996 for citizen-led exchanges. Now the club is run by President Ichiro Abe and nine steering committee members. Monthly meetings are held to discuss current and upcoming events.

Regular events include English Conversation Salon, Online Exchange with Lower Hutt Citizens and Publication of Newsletters, twice a year.

Annual events include Cherry Blossom viewings, AGMs, Welcome Parties for Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) dispatched from New Zealand, NZ wine tasting, running a NZ wine bar at the Multi-cultural Festival organized by the Minoh Association for Global Awareness, Kiwi party (like a Christmas party). However many events have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a contribution to the events mentioned above, ALTs and CIRs assist as native English speaking teachers at the "English Conversation Salon". They also write articles for

the newsletter such as "My Japan", "From NZ". At the NZ Wine Bar, they help sell wine, creating a NZ atmosphere that customers love. We also invite them to our AGMs and parties. Members have good conversations with them at the parties and they enjoy it considerably.

Club aspirations

Minoh citizens and members will be able to enjoy intercultural communication at events, and our club will strive for a realistic experience of sister city exchange between the two cities. The management of the club should help both citizens to understand different cultures and customs. The next most important thing is that they get to know Minoh better. If they participate in our club events, in doing so, members can help them adjust to their life in Minoh.

Club challenge for the future

Come to think of it, we do not understand much about the young people from NZ. The challenge is to eliminate this generation gap which also exists in Japanese society. Minoh Hutt Friendship Club wishes them a prosperous future.

Excerpt from Minoh-Hutt Friendship Club Newsletter feat. Kiwi JETs

What I think about coming to Minoh from NZ(Wellington).

Kent Morris



Kent Morris

昨年11月に新しくALTとして箕面市に着任されました

My name is Kent Morris and I am from Wellington, New Zealand.

As of 2021, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to travel to Minoh, explore Japanese culture, and teach English as an Assistant Language Teacher through the JET program.

It has been one month since I arrived in Minoh city, but already I've been emerged with splendors beyond my expectations. Only 4 km from my apartment, I walked to the Minoh falls where I was surrounded by a refreshing green forest and red maple trees. Along the way, I was able to see various stores, historical temples, and even the wildlife and monkeys. I think Minoh city is a fantastic place, and I've realized there are a lot of similarities with my hometown. I am still able to take a small walk to see beautiful scenic nature while in the convenience of a big city. Like in Wellington, there is a strong sense of community with many exciting events and festivals that we are encouraged to participate in. One thing I won't miss about Wellington will be the weather. For once it is nice to escape the Wet Windy Wellington, and enjoy the warm summers and winter snow Japan has to offer. It is nearing Christmas, and although I will miss spending the Christmas summer and barbecues with my family and friends in Wellington, I'm sure I will find many new friends among the amazing community we have in Minoh City.

I am always ready for a new challenge, and I am excited for what is yet to come.



Excerpt from Minoh-Hutt Friendship Club Newsletter feat. Kiwi JETs cntd

My Japan

Ryan Dempsey

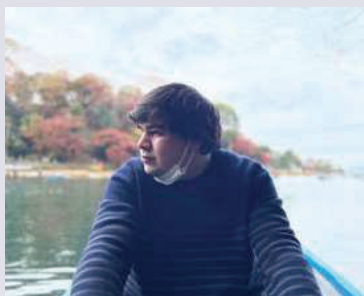


It has been just under 4 years since I left New Zealand to start a new life in Japan and whilst I may have initially been a bit worried about living by myself for the first time ever, I feel like I have matured a lot as a person since coming here.

In an effort to better adapt to life in Japan, I have been using every chance I can get to study and practice Japanese.

Whether it's asking questions to store attendants or just talking with my co-workers, I find that every conversation helps me to slightly better understand Japanese and Japanese culture.

Being a huge history nerd, one of my favourite things to do since arriving in Japan, is travel around the country visiting different shrines, temples, and museums. I have always loved learning history and the fact that it is so easy to access historical informa-



Ryan Dempsey
嵐山にてボートを楽しむ。4年前よりALT
英会話サロンでは明るいインストラクター

tion here makes me incredibly happy. Whenever I travel, I always make sure to research any shrines or museums that I may be staying near, and I always carry my stamp book, so I can keep a memory of every shrine and temple that I have visited.

While there are times that I miss New Zealand, I am glad that I decided to come to Japan. I have met old friends, made new friends, and been able to do the things that make me truly happy such as, participate in martial arts (Karate and Judo), teach English to both Elementary and Middle school students, and learn more about Japanese history.

I wouldn't change these experiences for anything else in the world and am looking forward to what the future has in store for me.



Happy Challenge

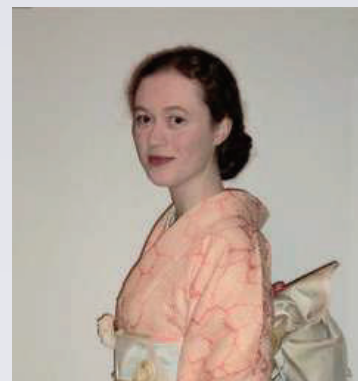
Zea Rose

When I moved to Minoh I didn't know anyone. I was both nervous and excited about moving to Osaka, but honestly, I didn't know what to expect. Would I make friends? Would I get on with my coworkers? Would I like the city? The unknown was a bit intimidating, but I looked forward to the challenge.

Once I arrived in Minoh and settled into a rhythm, I realised how lucky I was. I got to work with wonderful people and over time built a solid community of friends. I figured out where things were and stopped relying on maps, Minoh became familiar, it became home. It also resembled my home in New Zealand in some ways, being nestled at the bottom of forested hills.

A highlight of my time in Minoh is the people I got to meet. I spent time with people from the Hutt Club, Tomo no Kai, MAFGA's Comm Cafe and learned a lot from my time with all of them. I also traipsed all over Minoh, I went to Katsuoji, yuzu picking in Todoromi, vege farms in Saito, to a mini tea ceremony at Saikoji, cooked at Comm Café, and wandered up the path to the waterfall more times than I can count. I saw wild monkeys for the first time, they were a lot bigger than I imagined!

I received a lot of care and kindness from people in Minoh, I hope that I was able to give just as much.



Zea Rose キウイパーティーにて
昨年夏まで箕面市役所でCIRをつとめました
国内でご活躍です



ALT Assistant Language Teacher (外国語指導助手)
CIR Coordinator for International Relations (国際交流員)
ALTと同じくJET programme (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) の内の1つ