

From the Board

Message from new President Mayor Grant Smith



Kia ora and welcome. As your new President I would like to introduce our incoming Board for 2022/23: Vice President Ray Wallace, Directors John Christie, Beth Knowles and Taylor Marston, Emeritus President Hiromi Morris, Advisors Luke Qin and Elisha Hsiao, and Administrator Sarah Ma.

It is great to finally see international boarders reopening and face to face activity happening and re-connections made. I have personally seen this in International Education, Trade discussions and people-to-people connections. This can only make our communities more vibrant.

Most will have caught up with the news that our Conference has been moved to late 2023 and will still be hosted in the beautiful Marlborough region. In the meantime as we have some significant diplomatic anniversaries to acknowledge

and celebrate. With this in mind, the Board have organised a one day Forum at Parliament's Grand Hall on Thursday 10th November.

Planning is also underway for several regional half-day Forums where members, Councils and international partners can share thoughts and experiences. These start with Dunedin on Friday 30th September, as well as Auckland and Palmerston North planned for early 2023.

With an international spring in everyone's step, let's make the most of our reconnecting in coming months. I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in near future.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Mayor Grant Smith, GCNZ President**

Save the Date



Forum 2022

**10am, Thursday 10 November 2022
at Grand Hall, Parliament Building**

**Theme: Celebrating New Zealand's
Diplomatic Relations - Global
Connections and Diversity through
Citizen Diplomacy**

Please join us to celebrate New Zealand's diplomatic relations with the USA (80 years), Japan (70 years), South Korea (60 years) and China (50 years).

The forum can bring people together to share our stories, to discuss how we can reconnect with the world and work together to maintain the people based global connections established over the years, and to develop further, both internationally and locally.



Regional Global Cities Forum to be held in Dunedin

Dunedin is looking forward to hosting guests from Otago and Southland for the regional Global Cities Forum this month.

About 50 people have been invited to the event set to be held at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery on 30 September.

Speakers will include Dunedin Mayor Aaron Hawkins, President of Sister Cities NZ Grant Smith and representatives from business, exporting, education providers and other councils.

Ongoing international relationships that are benefitting the city and region's businesses will be highlighted at the forum.

The city is looking forward to showcasing the value sister city partnerships have.

The forum, which was meant to be held last year, was delayed when New Zealand was shifted into Alert Level 2.

Christchurch International Strategy

By Beth Knowles, International Director, Ara Institute of Canterbury & GCNZ Director



Ōtautahi Christchurch has developed a new strategy which will guide how it engages internationally.

The International Relations Policy Framework is a strategy jointly owned by all internationally active city institutions for how Christchurch will engage with the world, for the benefit of city residents, as part of a post-COVID recovery pathway.

Stakeholders include organisations representing the city's business, trade, tourism and education sectors, as well as the Sister Cities community given the benefit of these connections to the city.

The Framework reflects the willingness shared by all stakeholders to be more deliberate and targeted in their

international outreach, as well as to collaborate where interests align. It also reflects the Council's desire to act as a convener and conduit, rather than pursuing international relationships and objectives in isolation.

The stakeholder group recently identified Australia, the West Coast of the United States, the Guangdong Province of China and the Republic of Korea as the places on which to focus collective efforts to build international ties. This includes Sister Cities Adelaide, Seattle, Songpa-gu and friendly city Shenzhen.

Christchurch will still maintain the relationships that it has with all of its seven Sister Cities. Whilst underpinned by people-to-people connections, the future of each relationship will be unique, as determined by potential cross-sector benefits and collaboration opportunities.

Expected opportunities include the establishment of direct air links; knowledge transfer in areas of common interest; collaboration in sustainability and climate change adaptation and resilience; and increased business connections.

[Click here to read the framework document](#)

Absolutely Positively Deserving

By Ray Wallace, GCNZ Vice President



Marcus Boshier & Ray Wallace (GCNZ), Mayor Andy Foster, Hiromi, Wayne Morris, Miko Morris, Jennifer Zhou (WCC), Roxie Orr (Wellington Sakai Association), Tomotaka Ishizu (Embassy of Japan)

Emeritus President Hiromi Morris has been awarded an Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian Award from Wellington City Council for her years of dedication and support of the Council's 20 Sister City relationships.

A special ceremony was held at Te Papa recently where

Hiromi was presented her Award by Mayor Andy Foster and his councillors. Vice President of GCNZ Ray Wallace was in attendance with past Board member Marcus Boshier and members of the Xiamen society along with her husband Wayne Morris.

Mayor Andy Foster told the audience that Hiromi had shown such dedication to the relationships with her support, advice, and practical help which the Council and City was eternally grateful.

Hiromi said she was humbled by the Award and accepted it also on behalf of all the people she has worked with over many years in the sister city relationships. Hiromi gave special thanks to her number one supporter, husband Wayne Morris who without his support she could not do the work she has done and enjoyed over many years.

On 5 August, Hiromi was also awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation. [Click here to read the full press release](#) from the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand.

Thank you message from Hiromi Morris

I would like to advise you that I have formally stepped down from the role of President at the latest AGM after 14 years of service (10 years as President).

Palmerston North Mayor and GCNZ Board Director Grant Smith was elected as the new President and I would like to ask for your continued support.

The Board appointed me to the position of Emeritus President as an advisor's role and I will continue supporting the organisation in the background. I would also like to continue to support the Youth Subcommittee since I launched it

in 2016 and I am passionate about youth engagement for our future leaders.

The Board also appointed me as coordinator for organising the Forum to be held on Thursday 10 November at Grand Hall in Parliament. I look forward to welcoming you there.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your kind support given to me during my tenure. I respect and admire your time and commitment to furthering the important people-to-people connections in Aotearoa and abroad.





Gisborne School to School Exchange with USA

By Ann Osler, Gisborne District Sister Cities Committee

During 2021/2022, a link has been formed between two teachers, Sarah McKenzie from George Washington Elementary School Palm Desert and Megan McVey from Mangapapa School Gisborne, and their pupils.

Sixty-six children participated in the project and greatly benefited from the school-to-school pupil-to-pupil connections. This will resume again when the Palm Desert school commences the new school year.

Sarah McKenzie's students learned about Gisborne's location, looked at photos of Gisborne, and read about options available here. They spent some time comparing and contrasting the two cities and countries. They also talked about what Sister Cities means as they had not heard the term before.

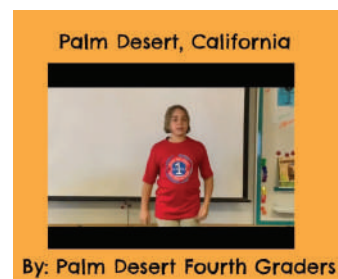
Sarah has shared with Megan the final slides her students made about themselves as well as a quick video with them talking about Palm Desert. The Palm Desert school year is now concluding, and Sarah thanked Gisborne Sister Cities for the connection and said her students enjoyed learning about Gisborne.

Megan McVey's pupils really enjoyed creating their Digital All About Me slides. They looked at the Sister Cities site

and as with the students in Palm Desert had not been aware of Sister Cities either. They have been making pamphlets about Gisborne to try and entice those in Palm Desert to come to visit when they have their "OE in10 years-time".

Megan has also linked Mangapapa's Year 5 Learning Site with Sarah in order for her to find their blogs. These have just been started this year, but when Sarah gets her new class, she will be encouraged to make contact again, they will be just a "click away".

Both classes thanked Sister Cities for the opportunity to make contact and through their school project become more aware of the others' city and culture.



Upcoming JNZBC Annual Joint Conference in Beppu

By Ian Kennedy, NZ Chair, JNZBC

Arrangements are well advanced for the 48th JNZBC Annual Joint Conference to be held in Beppu City, Japan, on 20-22 November this year.

Beppu is Rotorua's sister city.

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) shares our strong wish to get back to in-person meetings. Both sides are committed to the success of the conference after an enforced interruption caused by COVID-19.

The theme for the conference is "New Zealand and Japan: Transforming Challenges into Strengths through Partnership".

Given the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and Japan this year, it's an opportunity to reflect on the development of the trade and economic relationship and to take forward the suite of issues identified by Prime Minister Ardern on her recent visit - including working together on renewable energy, food

and beverage, technology, education exchanges and tourism.

Regular updates will be posted at www.jnzbc.com



Nelson holding China Week

By Barbara Markland, President Nelson Branch NZCFS



After several COVID-affected attempts Nelson City Council is again holding China Week at the Trafalgar Centre in Nelson, September 28 – October 1.

The event is supported by the Nelson Branch of NZCFS which is taking the opportunity to exhibit some of the gifts received from sister cities in China, Huangshi and Yangjiang. Also exhibited will be paintings by Nelson school children which have been digitalised and sent to Hubei Province to be exhibited in celebration of NZ/Hubei week.

Wednesday 28 September 7:00p.m.

Opening with Meng Foon, Race Relations Commissioner; invited dignitaries, Tangata Whenua, NZCFS, Nelson Chinese Society, members of the Public. There will be a presentation by Meng Foon on the evolving cultural mix in New Zealand with particular focus on the integration of Chinese communities (including his own journey).

- Confronting racism in local communities
- Difficulties Chinese have integrating into New Zealand society
- Historical connections between Chinese settlers and Māori
- Synergies between Māori and Chinese cultural practices and traditions.

Thursday 29 September 1 – 4:30pm

Business seminar.

Friday 30 September 7:00pm

Performance.

Saturday 1 October 11:00am – 2 pm

Chinese National Day. Community Day.

CLAIR Sydney visit to Palmerston North City Council

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On 2 June, a CLAIR Sydney office staff who is on a secondment from Mihara City in Hiroshima Prefecture visited Palmerston North City Council in New Zealand and met with the Mayor, Grant Smith.

Palmerston North is the most populated area of the Manawatu region in the southern part of New Zealand's North Island. The city is located on the fertile plains along the Manawatu River and has a long-standing, prosperous dairy industry. In recent years, businesses have been relocating to the city due to the city's position as an important transportation hub in the region. Palmerston North is also a university town, and its population continues to grow due to the influx of people from both within New Zealand and internationally.

The relationship between Mihara City and Palmerston North began in 2003 when Mihara City invited athletes from Palmerston North to participate in the Triathlon Sagishima held in Mihara City. After reciprocal visits made by the mayors of both cities, a sister city affiliation was concluded in March 2019.

During this visit to Palmerston North, the staff dispatched from Mihara City met with Mayor Grant Smith to discuss future exchange between the two cities. Mayor Smith, who has just been appointed President of Global Cities New Zealand, spoke passionately about the importance of the exchange with Mihara City. Following that, the CLAIR Sydney staff presented the Mayor with a letter from the Mihara City Mayor, Mr Yoshihiro Okada.



Japanese Ambassador's Southern Trip

On the 1st of July, His Worship the Mayor of Invercargill, Sir Tim Shadbolt and Councillor Darren Ludlow met with the Japanese Ambassador Mr Koichi Ito and Mr Yohei Fujitani, Head of Economic Section. There were discussions on education and trade.

Introducing the new GCNZ Board Members



President: Mayor Grant Smith (Palmerston North)

Grant Smith is the 29th Mayor of Palmerston North City and is proactive in supporting Sister Cities and global relationships. Grant has had an extensive business background in advertising and marketing, as well as managing multiple international sporting and cultural events, before becoming Mayor. He has also served on the boards of Te Manawa Museum Trust, The Manawatu Rugby Union, The New Zealand Rugby Museum, Central Squash Association, and New Zealand Squash. He has championed the international programme Palmerston North city runs, which supports key city sectors of Food Research, International Education, Defence, and Trade.



Director: John Christie (Dunedin)

John is a senior management executive with previous director, CEO, and project manager experience at several high-profile New Zealand organisations. In his role as Director of Enterprise Dunedin, he is also a member of Dunedin City Council's executive leadership team. His governance experience includes roles with Otago Polytechnic, Knox and Salmond Colleges, Warbirds Over Wanaka, Diversity Works NZ, and New Zealand Chambers of Commerce. John is the former Chief Executive of the Otago Chamber of Commerce. He has been instrumental in the development of Dunedin's relationship internationally including its sister cities of Shanghai, Otaru, and Edinburgh.



Director: Taylor Marston (Auckland)

Taylor has an academic background in sister cities, having completed his master's thesis on sister city relationships shared between Japan and Aotearoa New Zealand. He currently resides in Tāmaki Makaurau and is pursuing a PhD in the field of community development, once again focusing on sister city relationships. Taylor has a strong passion for the "Think Global, Act Local" doctrine and is eager to promote the actions of sister cities and their importance in contemporary society, especially to today's youth. Taylor also teaches classes in the Japanese, and Social Sciences and Public Policy departments at Auckland University of Technology.



Administrator: Sarah Ma (Palmerston North)

Sarah is from Vietnam and came to New Zealand in 2017 to study at IPU New Zealand. In 2020, she graduated with a Bachelor of Contemporary International Studies, majoring in International Relations. In 2018 She joined the Palmy Global Ambassador Programme run by the Palmerston North City Council and became a Youth Ambassador. Her experiences as both a Youth Ambassador and a Vice Chair of the Manawatu Young Chamber have given her many opportunities to learn about International Relations, youth engagement as well as the world around her.



Youth Advisor: Elisha Hsiao (Porirua)

Elisha is a Product Manager at Volpara Health, innovating software to assist with early cancer detection; a member of the Asia NZ Foundation's Leadership Network and a previous recipient of the French Embassy's Hexagone Scholarship.

Originally from Taiwan, Elisha has spent half her life in New Zealand and lived in France for six months during her university exchange. Elisha is a firm believer that fostering friendships around the world from a grassroots level is a great way to learn about other cultures. Sister Cities relationships is a way to achieve this. Elisha organised and led the GCNZ's inaugural Youth Tour to 5 cities in China in 2018.



Vice President: Ray Wallace (Lower Hutt)

Ray believes strongly in the Sister Cities philosophy of extending friendship with other countries and celebrating cultural diversity. He is in his second term as Vice-president of GCNZ. Originally from Scotland, Ray came to New Zealand as a three-year-old, but remains very proud of his Scottish heritage. Ray has served as a City Councillor and Mayor of Lower Hutt from October 2010-2019. It was his strong sense of service to the community and interest in local democracy that spurred him to stand for public office. As Mayor for nine years, he strengthened relationships with Lower Hutt's sister cities of Tempe in the United States, Minoh in Japan, and Taizhou in China. He is also the Chairman of the Hutt Minoh Friendship Trust, and has worked closely with his city's Multicultural Council. Ray has also been a Justice of the Peace for 26 years.



Director: Beth Knowles (Christchurch)

Beth is a passionate advocate for internationalisation and the contribution of vocational education to workforce skills development and regional economic development. This passion has ensured Beth has been actively involved in supporting sister city relationships in Hawke's Bay, Wellington, and Canterbury. As International Director at Ara Institute of Canterbury, Beth has over 30 years of experience in the international education industry. Beth's career spans the fields of business development, export education marketing and recruitment, internationalisation of tertiary institutions, staff and student exchange, technical and vocational education and training and international education consultancy. Previous roles include tertiary institutions and the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Emeritus President: Hiromi Morris (Wellington)

Hiromi was born and raised in Japan. She visited New Zealand for the first time when she was a young student. It was an enlightening experience that subsequently led to her getting involved in supporting global connections through people-to-people exchanges since 1994 when Wellington/Sakai relationship was formed. Hiromi became a GCNZ Board member in 2008 and has been President since 2012. She believes strongly in collaboration and working collectively with a wider range of organisations, embassies, central/local governments, businesses, communities, and schools. She is also enthusiastic to work with young people – our future leaders. Hiromi has been appointed as Emeritus President at the AGM held in May 2022.



Advisor: Luke Qin JP (Wellington/Lower Hutt)

Originally from Sichuan, China, Luke first arrived in Christchurch as a teenager. He is an experienced international trade banker, helping established exporters and importers with working capital funding and risk management. Luke currently serves as an Elected Board Member of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, Executive Committee Member of the New Zealand China Council, National Executive of the New Zealand Chinese Association, Official Cultural Advisor for the Hurricanes Super Rugby team, and Chair of Hutt City Council Community Funding Panel. He is also an Elected Board Director of Transparency International New Zealand, chairing the Affiliations Committee and serving on the Audit & Risk Committee. He is a member of the Institute of Directors, Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Network, Rotary Club of Wellington, and has been serving as a Justice of the Peace since 2012.