



From the Board

Message from President Mayor Grant Smith

Kia ora and welcome. Special greetings as we enter the festive season and look forward to welcoming in the 2023 New Year.

This year has been difficult with multiple lock-down levels but from September life started to regain some normality. Borders were slowly reopened, face to face meetings and trade restarted, and delegations were welcomed back to New Zealand.

Around the world, it was great to see international borders reopening everywhere and face to face activity happening.

In speaking to the Business Community, Councils and Local Government partners, along with the Diplomatic Corp, it seems more is planned for New Zealand in the 2023 year.

In November we hosted our GCNZ Forum at Parliament, which was attended by approximately 100 members

and delegates and was deemed a great success.

We acknowledged the various bilateral diplomatic anniversaries New Zealand holds with the USA, Japan, South Korea and China. It was special to have the Associate Minister, along with several MPs, Ambassadors and representatives of the mentioned Embassies present.

As we look forward to 2023, which I'm sure will again be challenging domestically, there is optimism internationally, as Councils, Sister City Committees, Schools and other organisations look to reconnect.

Again I wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year, and look forward to meeting up with as many members as possible in 2023.

Ngā mihi nui,

Mayor Grant Smith, JP, GCNZ President



GLOBAL CITIES
NEW ZEALAND

Forum 2022

10 November, Wellington



GCNZ Forum feedback



Antonia Avéres, Youth Subcommittee

The GCNZ Forum last month was my first time attending, and it was a wonderful experience. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, and found it both enlightening, engaging, and, simply put, fun. It was great hearing from the respective ambassadors (or equivalent) of the US, Japan, South Korea, and China, as well as members from around New Zealand. Speaking in front of the attendees for my segment of our presentation was nerve-racking but easier than I thought it would be, and I heard great feedback and interest in the youth subcommittee! Overall, I think the forum went brilliantly, and I can't wait to be involved in more of them in the future.



Janine Jones, Hutt City Council

I recently attended the GCNZ Forum held at Parliament Buildings in Wellington. Not having attended this before I didn't know what to expect so it was great to sit amongst people who have a shared passion for providing fantastic sister cities exchange programmes.

I felt such pride in the room, saw we all have the common goal and how we all work hard to get the best results. It was great to hear more about the long standing relationships this programme creates worldwide and the lifetime 'family' that comes out of it, priceless. I was also very impressed with the youth committee and the work they have done so far and look forward to their future updates. I look forward to next year's Conference in Blenheim.



Caii-Michelle Baker

The Forum showed that dedication to strive to build enduring relationships between our countries was a priority. Listening to our Mayors, cultural leaders, President, Vice President, and representatives displaying hope as the efforts to work together inspired me.

I enjoyed our discussions on how do we grow and improve the purpose and foundation of Global Cities NZ knowing that our conversations displayed rich ideas, striving to build together, a stronger, sustainable world so children, youth, families, communities and our natural environment. *Thrive - now and in the future.*



Miko Morris, Youth Subcommittee

The GCNZ 2022 conference at Parliament was my first conference as a Youth Subcommittee member. I found it both very insightful and a memorable experience being able to represent the relaunch of the Youth Sub-Committee and a fantastic opportunity to gain knowledge and establish close people-to-people relations which GCNZ encourages on both personal and international levels.

It was a privilege to attend such a prestigious event that advocates for cultural and societal understandings of people from diverse backgrounds that benefit and strengthen relationships between people and cities. I look forward to engaging myself more in events that celebrate these partnerships and engagement of people and partnerships as I learn, grow from other people whilst telling my story and finding my place in the world.



Michelle Gibson, Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust Board, Teacher Exchange Recipient to Minoh (2016), JET - Minoh (2018-2019)

This was my first time attending a GCNZ Forum and what an amazing day it was! I learnt so much and met so many amazing people.

From the four ambassadors, I gained a greater insight into their countries and the long relationships they have had with New Zealand, plus their future plans. On a local community level, the main message I took away, was reconnecting and rebuilding those connections, on a people to people basis, but also virtually.

One of my highlights was the presentation by the Youth Subcommittee and the important work they are doing. These young people are the future of GCNZ and have many innovative ideas, knowledge, passion and drive. They are of great value to the organization. I will be taking some of their ideas back to the Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust, to help us reconnect and extend our special relationship with Minoh (Lower Hutt's sister city).

I would like to thank the organisers for their hard work in providing us with such an informative, exhilarating and fun day.



Youth Subcommittee Members



Lytton High School staff and students with the Japanese Embassy Officials and Ambassador, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, GDSC committee members and Hiromi Morris

Gisborne District Sister Cities welcomes Japanese Ambassador

By Jan Calder, Gisborne District Sister Cities

Gisborne District Sister Cities had much pleasure in welcoming to Gisborne members of the Japanese Embassy: Ambassador Ito and 1st Secretaries Fujitani and Ishizu, alongside GCNZ Emeritus President Hiromi Morris on 20th and 21st September.

Mayor Rehette Stoltz and Nedine Thatcher Swann, Chief Executive of Gisborne District Council hosted our five visitors to dinner at USSCOs restaurant on arrival.

Earlier in the afternoon GDSC Chair Jim Osler and the committee had a relaxed discussion over refreshments with Hiromi Morris.

Next morning Lytton High School Principal Wiremu Elliott, along with staff and students welcomed and hosted our visitors, commencing with a pōwhiri, they then visited and conversed with students during their Japanese language class. The last stop on this highly

informative visit was an invitation from Wiremu Elliott to relax and chat over morning tea with staff and the GDSC committee. Ambassador Ito received a personal gift from Wiremu Elliott in recognition of his 2022 visit.

All too soon it was time to say farewell to Ambassador Ito, Hiromi Morris, and guests. Before being driven to Whakatāne by Gisborne Tours our visitors took a whistle stop tour to a citrus processing unit at Patutahi then drove through very productive horticultural units to lunch at the Bushmere Arms.

All participants were at various times acknowledged for their input and support.

During this visit, general discussions recognised 2022 as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan–New Zealand Diplomatic Relations.



GDSC's Ann and Jim Osler, Ambassador Ito, Wiremu Elliott and Hiromi Morris



Lytton High School Japanese language class



Mayor Rehette Stoltz and Ambassador Ito

Nelson Celebrates Huangshi Relationship

By Gail Collingwood, NZ China Friendship Society (Nelson)

In celebration of NZ/Hubei week on November 14 a video conference was held with Hubei Municipal Government officials as well as representatives of the cities which have a relationship with New Zealand cities and regions.

Nelson's Deputy Mayor, Rohan O'Neill-Stevens, was supported by Nelson Branch members, President Barbara Markland, Vice President Bill Findlater, and Gail Collingwood, a former board member of Sister Cities New Zealand.

Six South Island areas have relationships in Hubei: Nelson with Huangshi, Christchurch with Wuhan, Westland District with Huanggang City, Waimakariri with Enshi State, Hurunui with Honghu City. All were represented and leaders spoke of the sister city activities and events that have occurred over the years, and of the importance of people-to-people relationships. Other speakers were the leader



of Hubei Province; the leader of CPAFFC; Clare Fearnley New Zealand Ambassador to China; Madam He Ying, Consul General in Christchurch.

The children's art work digitised and sent to Wuhan was displayed as was a remembrance wall pertaining to Rewi Alley. Rewi Alley has been celebrated throughout NZ/Hubei week, and Clare Hearnley also mentioned Appo Hocton, a Nelsonian and the first naturalised Chinese New Zealander.

This 'video dialogue' reinforced the importance of sister city relationships in developing and maintaining ties with China, and fulfilling the aims of NZCFS.



Marlborough to host 2023 GCNZ conference

By Mike Porter, Marlborough District Council

Marlborough is excited to be hosting the Global Cities New Zealand Conference next year, and planning is well underway.

Mayor Nadine Taylor says she is delighted Marlborough would host the event in November 2023.

“With the disruption we’ve had over the past three years, it will be a wonderful opportunity to get together, to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones,” she says.

Marlborough has a long history of sister city relationships with the first created in 1989 with Japanese city Tendo. That relationship was built on shared cherry export industries, and two years later another relationship was formed with Otari Village in Nagano.

In 2016 Marlborough signed a sister region agreement with Ningxia in China - a relationship focusing on economic development in the wine industry.

Mayor Taylor is a keen advocate for sister cities and was one of the first to travel on an early Council youth programme, visiting for a working holiday at the ski fields in and around Otari after leaving university.

“The benefits of sister city exchanges are varied and many - from economic benefits to the mutual exchange of ideas and technology, alongside the cultural experience, friendships and relationships that are made when visiting another country,” she says.

“That is what we want to build on next year - and showcase the very best Marlborough has to offer.”

The conference is set down for 7 and 8 November 2023 and will be held at the Marlborough Events Centre. The district looks forward to welcoming Global Cities New Zealand members and friends then!



Save the Date



**GLOBAL CITIES
CONFERENCE**

2023

**BLenheim
7 & 8 NOVEMBER**

Rewi Alley 125th Anniversary Celebrations

By Allison J Rosanowski, Chairperson of Selwyn Sister Cities Committee

On the 21st October, the 125th Anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth was celebrated. For this anniversary Chinese Ambassador Wang requested that our three districts celebrate Rewi Alley's contribution to the people of China with local school children.

The day started at the Springfield Rewi Alley Memorial Park, Rewi Alley's birthplace. Students from Springfield School and Darfield High School welcomed Ambassador Wang and Consul General Madam He. Ambassador Wang spoke to the students about the work of Rewi Alley in China. With students assisting he unveiled a new plaque donated by the Christchurch Chinese Consulate General Madam He.

Lu Bao who sculpted the Springfield statue, along with her husband Deng Bangzhen, were special guests throughout the day. Deng Bangzhen is a foster son of Rewi Alley. They presented Springfield School with a painting created by Bangzhen and a book of Bao's sculptures.

One of Rewi Alley's greatest achievements was setting up schools in poor rural areas where students had both academic learning and learnt practical skills for future employment. The philosophy was *hands and minds together*.

Darfield High School has had a Sister School relationship with Shandan Bailie School for 25 years. This is a school established by Rewi Alley and now is a large Vocational College where practical learning is combined with academic study.

In August, students from both schools with Selwyn Councillors, Sister Cities Committee and Springfield Township Committee made a video for the Shandan Bailie Vocational College's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The celebration party, which also included members of the Alley family, travelled to Amberley from Springfield. Rewi Alley attended Amberley Primary School while his father was the Headmaster there. Hurunui Council has a Sister City relationship with Hong Ho, an area that Rewi Alley mobilised help to during major floods in 1931.

At the established Chinese garden Ambassador Wang, Consulate General He along with Mayor Marie Black, planted a tree to commemorate the 125th anniversary and 50 years of Diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand.

The party then were welcomed at Amberley School by the school's kapa haka group and new entrants who had made special decorations for the visitors. After lunch Ambassador Wang spoke to senior students about Rewi Alley's contribution to China. Rewi Alley's foster son, Deng Bengzhen told the children of his experiences growing up, after being adopted by Rewi Alley. The school was presented with a painting by Bang Bengzhen and an illustrated book of Lu Bao's sculptures.



Boy and Water Buffalo with Dr Richard Bullen of the University of Canterbury

The previous day a Symposium in Christchurch celebrated Rewi Alley's achievements and contributions over 60 years to the Chinese people.

On Rewi's actual birthday, the 2nd of December, the three Sister Cities Committees, Consul General Madam He and local members of the Alley family were invited to view artefacts from the Rewi Alley Canterbury Museum collection and letters from the MacMillian Brown library. Dr Richard Bullen, Associate Professor of Arts at Canterbury Museum, a Rewi Alley scholar shared his expertise. Those attending were privileged to see an original of the *Boy and Water Buffalo* scroll which has not been displayed by Canterbury Museum since the 1950s.

The day concluded with a reception hosted by Madam He which included many outstanding cultural performances.

In late February 2023, Selwyn Sister Cities Committee will unveil a plaque alongside the five ginkgo trees planted in Springfield to celebrate fifty years of Diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand.

Shared Lunch a huge Success

By Gail Collingwood, NZ China Friendship Society (Nelson)

Over fifty people turned up for the Nelson NZCFS shared lunch with the Chinese Association held at the NMIT Library Learning Centre on Sunday 27 November.

President Barbara Markland said the day was a “roaring success and achieved everything we wanted”. The food table was laden with a fantastic range of dishes mostly made by the attendees. Among the favourites were Frank’s *youtiao*, Jane’s Xinjiang cold noodles (*liang pi*) and Barbara’s barbecued pork dish (*cha shao*) which disappeared in a flash.

President Barbara Markland welcomed everyone and said she was delighted that have this opportunity to mix socially with our local Chinese community. Laurie Shawn spoke on behalf of the Chinese Association expressing his pleasure that we could get together and enjoy each other’s company.

Dr Julie Bytheway, Head of Department – Learner Services for NMIT also welcomed everyone to NMIT in the spirit of the values of Te Pukenga (the new umbrella organisations for Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology) which includes fostering community engagement. The NMIT library was an excellent venue for the shared lunch and the wonderful support from the NMIT team of Julie, Yuka,

Caesey and Mariana was hugely appreciated. Julie also blessed the food in Te Reo. NMIT have offered the use of this excellent facility for future events and as a way to reach-out to Chinese students as their numbers start to grow again post-COVID. NMIT’s support is greatly appreciated.

One of our invited guests was Birte Becker-Steel, the newly appointed Welcoming Communities Officer for TDC. Birte said that this was an excellent event for creating understanding and tolerance and she is hopeful that similar events can be held regularly. She is looking at the possibility of holding a shared lunch in Richmond around Chinese New Year.

The room was full of chatter and excitement as everyone found people they knew and talked with people they were meeting for the first time. It was a real family occasion with many children enjoying games and activities provided by NMIT. It was also a great opportunity for many to practise conversing in English and Mandarin and language was no barrier.

This was the first time that such an event has been held with the Chinese Association and promises to be the first of many.



President Barbara Markland speaking (centre) with Dr Julie Bytheway (left) and Laurie Lu and Birte Becker-Steel (right)



Attendees enjoy the delicious food on offer at the shared lunch.