

## From the Board

### Message from President Mayor Grant Smith



Kia ora,

Our belated apologies around the postponement of our Global Cities New Zealand conference to March 2024. It was a difficult decision to make, but in hindsight the right one, jointly by the hosts Marlborough District Council and our GCNZ Board. With a new Government just elected and speaker availability, better travel and accommodation options along with increased delegate interest, we look forward to a much needed national conference catch-up face-to-face in Blenheim, mid March next year.

The new date set is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 11am to allow delegates to arrive that morning and finishing with the Annual Awards dinner on the Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> March, after two days of conference.

In this newsletter the South Island features strongly with Dunedin, Selwyn District and Christchurch all profiling international events and Sister City activity. My own council, Palmerston North City reports on our international connections with Vietnam, China, USA and Netherlands during the winter months; and new GCNZ member NZIIA is profiled.

I also want to make mention, of a private trip I made to attend the opening in Northern France of 'Te Arawhata' The NZ Liberation Museum in Le Quesnoy in mid October.

A moving occasion with 100+ other New Zealanders including the Mayors of Waipa and Tararua Districts. The new museum, situated in the walled town of Le Quesnoy is the creation of Weta Workshops and a must see for any Kiwi travelling to that part of the world, and something I'm sure we will hear much more about in the future. The Waikato town of Cambridge and Le Quesnoy are Sister Cities.

Again I want to push that we really value receiving articles and snippets from your own international programmes for this newsletter and our online and social networks, no matter how small or large they are. Please do send material to Caroline our editor for future editions and distribution.

Finally I want to welcome our new co-opted Board member Laurie Foon, Deputy Mayor of Wellington City and a keen Sister Cities advocate, who along with new Administrator Sally Ho, completes our GCNZ Board.

I look forward to continuing to connect with as many members as possible around the country in the near future. Enjoy the warmer season coming.

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

### Introducing Sally Ho, GCNZ National Administrator

**Sally is from Vietnam and came to New Zealand in 2018 to study at IPU New Zealand.**

In 2022, she graduated from IPU majoring in management and accounting. She joined GCNZ in May 2023 as the National

Administrator. Her mission is to answer all GCNZ inquires and carry out general administration for the organisation.

Sally says: "I would describe myself as positive and supportive of other people, passionate about my work, and someone who is willing to change myself to adapt to new things."

## Global Cities NZ conference postponed

**The conference bringing sister city associations from around New Zealand together has been postponed until March.**

Global Cities New Zealand was to meet in Blenheim at the Marlborough Events Centre in November, but GCNZ President Grant Smith says that due to issues outside the control of the organisers, a joint decision has been made by the Global Cities New Zealand board and the Marlborough District Council to push the Marlborough conference out to mid-March.

Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor says the delay is unfortunate, but Marlborough is looking forward to

March and "hosting the best conference yet".

Registration details and the draft programme will be released in the next few weeks.

GCNZ President Mayor Grant Smith says the conference will be themed on "re-connecting with the world", to encourage councils, organisations, and businesses to make the most of their sister city relationships post-COVID.

"We look forward to seeing attendees at the Marlborough Events Centre on 14 and 15 March 2024 at the conference with exciting speakers and the theme of re-connecting with the world."

## Introducing new GCNZ member NZIIA

**We are excited to introduce ourselves as the newest members of Global Cities New Zealand (GCNZ).**

At NZIIA Palmerston North, our mission is to promote informed discussions and a deep understanding of international affairs. Our commitment to facilitating dialogue on global issues naturally aligns with GCNZ's vision of fostering interconnected and globally-engaged communities throughout New Zealand.

Our expectation of GCNZ is to serve as a platform for mutual enrichment. We look forward to actively participating in the network by sharing our expertise in international affairs, contributing to thought-provoking discussions, and engaging in knowledge exchange. Through this partnership, we anticipate numerous opportunities for collaborative research projects, cultural exchanges, and co-hosted events that will not only enrich our organisation but also extend benefits to the wider community.

GCNZ's platform provides an ideal space for us to engage in constructive dialogues, learn from the experiences of other members, and collectively address global challenges. We are eager to explore how our partnership can drive positive change for our cities and our nation.

In essence, our membership in GCNZ is an exciting step towards shaping a future where New Zealand's global interests are nurtured and advanced. We eagerly anticipate the possibilities, from impactful collaborations to shared insights and a deeper understanding of

global issues that will mutually benefit our cities, our organisation, and our beloved New Zealand.

Thank you for welcoming us into the GCNZ family, and we are excited about the journey ahead!



## Wellington Deputy Mayor joins GCNZ Board

**Recently the Global Cities New Zealand board co-opted Wellington City Council Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon to join them. Laurie Foon has been Deputy Mayor of Wellington City since 2022 having first won a seat as a Paekawakawa/Southern Ward Councillor in 2019.**



Known as a pioneer in sustainable fashion, Laurie founded fashion label Starfish in the early 1990s. A host of honours came her way including a Sustainable Business Award in 2007. Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa recognised the historic and cultural significance of Starfish by having a collection of garments in its archives.

Passionate about sustainability for the good of the planet and everyone on it, Laurie knows business must be part of the solution and works with Wellington's business community to make meaningful change. She has five years experience as Manager of the Sustainable Business Network, as well as her insights as a business owner, to assist with this work.

Laurie grew up in Wainuiomata and for more than 20 years has lived in the diverse community of Newtown, Berhampore with her husband and two daughters. Laurie is of Chinese descent, with her great grandfather being the first known naturalised Chinese person in Lower Hutt in the late 1800s.

Laurie loves Wellington's inclusive and culture and people. She is excited about the potential its Sister City relationships have to form networks, engage in dialogue with counterparts to encourage collaboration and cooperation on important issues such as sustainability, the circular economy and cultural exchanges.



## Chinese Minister of Education Visits Springfield

Supplied by Selwyn District Council

**Minister Huai, the Chinese Minister of Education, visited Springfield, the birth place of Rewi Alley on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

He was welcomed by Mayor Sam Broughton, Graeme Dawson of the Springfield Residents Association and students from Springfield School. Members of the Selwyn Sister City Committee, Malvern Community Board, Alley family, Christchurch City Council international staff, Christchurch China Friendship Society, Springfield residents and ten Principals who will be travelling to China to explore the Rewi Alley legacy were all present for the ceremony. Chinese Consul General, Madam He, and her staff ensured this prestigious guest visited Springfield.

Three students from Springfield School assisted Minister Huai and Mayor Sam Broughton to plant a kōwhai tree at Springfield School.

Twenty-six years ago the people of Springfield responded to Professor Bill Wilmott's call to celebrate Rewi Alley in his birth town. Lu Bao, the wife of one of Rewi Alley's Chinese foster sons, spent many months living with local

families while she created the sculpture of Rewi Alley in the Faulkner's woolshed. Later the building and panels which depict the life of Rewi Alley were added to the Rewi Alley Memorial Park. The English information panels were added to for the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary when Mandarin information panels were produced.

While the visit was short, it strengthens the relationships between Selwyn and China and underlines the importance of Rewi Alley to both communities. Rewi's work in China in establishing schools and cooperatives in poor rural areas continues to be celebrated. Selwyn has a Sister City relationship with Shandan where he established the Shandan Bailie School. This is now a Vocational College with over 4000 students. This school is a Sister School of Darfield High School.

The group of educators travelling to China, in September, to explore the legacy of Rewi Alley will further strengthen the relationships. The group includes two Dunedin High School Principals, two Christchurch Principals and eight Principals and educators from Malvern. Education for all was a key component of Rewi Alley's work.



# Palmerston North reconnecting with global partner cities

By Gabrielle Loga, PNCC International Relations Manager

**For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, Palmerston North City Council sent a couple of delegations to reconnect with our global partner cities, making up for the lost time in the last few years to deepen friendships, resume and enhance areas of collaboration with our partners.**

PNCC's International Relations Manager Gabrielle Loga led a small education delegation to visit our sister city in Mihara, Japan in late March 2023. The delegation was officially welcomed by Mihara's Mayor Yoshihiro Okada. The delegates visited a number of local high schools, establishing interest and relationships for Palmerston North's education providers for future student exchanges and collaboration. PNCC's International Relations team also met with the Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education and discussed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education, Mihara and Palmerston North to provide an opportunity for a local Palmerston North secondary school student to study at Hiroshima Global Academy, with three years of tuition fully funded by Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education and additional pastoral support provided by Mihara city.

In support of the first major international events that our long standing sister city Guiyang had held since the reopening of Chinese borders, Palmerston North's Mayor Grant Smith went to Guiyang in July to attend the 2023 Guiyang Eco Global Forum. He presented to around 2,500 attendees on what Palmerston North was doing in

the environment sustainability and climate change space.

Similarly, Gabrielle Loga also attended the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2023 in Guiyang earlier in May 2023 to participate in the Smart City International Cities panel discussion. At the Expo, Palmerston North had a display booth featuring city promotion videos, Palmy Proud magazines and merchandise items as well as information on the city's economic performance and technology sector. The city's participation and support for Guiyang was reported in the Guizhou Daily News and the China Daily.

Furthermore, Mayor Smith led another delegation consisted of representatives from the regional economic development agency and local iwi Rangitāne as well as Massey University to visit our other partner cities, Missoula in the USA and Wageningen in the Netherlands. During the visit to Missoula, the delegates had opportunities to visit many facilities and new developments in Missoula, meet with key partners to revitalise or establish economic connections, education connections, indigenous, sport, cultural, and governance connections.

During the brief visit to The Hague and Wageningen, Wageningen Mayor Floor Vermeulen and Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith discussed the possibility of building a collaborative alliance of university cities with the purpose to share research and exchange knowledge in topical areas like student housing, climate action, and sustainable development.



## Sister Cities feature at AmCham Innovation Awards

By Mayor Grant Smith, GCNZ President

The New Zealand American Chamber of Commerce's annual Innovation Awards were held in late August at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland.

In front of a sellout 400-strong awards audience, the 2023 AmCham Innovation Awards honour companies and organisations using entrepreneurship and innovation in achieving success in the fast moving, highly competitive US market. There were six award sections around Exports, Investors, Tourism and Bilateral relationships with one being chosen as the supreme winner.

GCNZ entered as an organisation promoting and profiling the 20 sister city relationships between our two nations, while Palmerston North City entered its own application around its own 40+ year relationship with Missoula City in the State of Montana, USA. Both entered the Bilateral relationships section, with PNCC being awarded a Highly Commended. Congratulations Palmy!



GCNZ board member Taylor Marston (Auckland), Emeritus President Hiromi Morris (Wellington) and Mayor Grant Smith (Palmerston North).



Gabrielle Loga (PNCC International Manager) and Mayor Grant Smith with their Highly Commended award.

## Dunedin celebrates Japan relationship with football

By Nathan Woodfield, Dunedin-Otaru Sister City Society

We've had an exciting couple of months here in Dunedin with the Dunedin-Otaru Sister City Society with the Women's FIFA World Cup related events. It has been a great chance to celebrate our long relationship with Japan as a city and with visitors from around the world.

To "kick it off" we had a viewing party for the first Japan game: Japan V Zambia on 22/07/2023. Whilst the game

itself was in Hamilton, we weren't going to "miss" out celebrating this! This was a combined event with the Otago University Japanese Student Association (OJSA) we "pitched" together. It was really great to work together and share our interests that were a perfect "match". OJSA are a fantastic group of talented and well organised individuals - future leaders there!

The big game for us here in Dunedin, that we weren't going to "pass", was Nadeshiko visiting for the Japan V Costa Rica game on 26/07/2023.

To "warm up", Ryohei Matsuoka organised a Hachimaki making event before the game with the kind help of student volunteers. Supporters made the iconic headbands together and these could be seen widely at the match! It wasn't "offside" to be a Costa Rica fan and Hachimaki were made for everyone. This event was a real "score" and was widely reported in local and international news.

"Heading" over to the game itself, we wore our Dunedin-Otaru Sister City 'Happi Coats' which are worn at festive events. We cheered loudly and supported the team and were rewarded with a 2-0 win on the day! Taking the lead from Nadeshiko leaving their locker rooms tidy and Japan supports from around the world cleaning the seats around them, we got our rubbish bags out and cleaned up too! Being a Tidy Kiwi is something we can identify with too.

The games have been a great chance to celebrate with people from around the world. We hope you've had a chance to enjoy the games too!



Fans enjoying the matches

# Principals visit China to explore Rewi Alley legacy

By Allison Rosanowski, Chairperson of Selwyn Sister City Committee

The Selwyn Sister City Committee and the Christchurch China Committee were asked by the Christchurch Chinese Consul General, Madam He, to recommend Principals to journey to China to explore the Legacy of Rewi Alley. Five Primary Principals from Malvern, five High School and Area School Principals from Christchurch and Dunedin and one International Director joined the delegation lead by retired Principal and Selwyn Sister City Chairperson, Allison Rosanowski.

Rewi Alley was born in Springfield in the Selwyn district and spent 60 years establishing schools and cooperatives for the rural poor in China especially in the northwest province of Gansu.

The journey of discovery began in Beijing with sessions on Chinese language, tea culture, historical exhibitions, an exhibition of finely etched ancient ink stones. A practical session reproducing a Chinese painting was a testing but fun activity. A visit to the Petroleum Campus of the Beijing No 101 Middle School gave opportunities for interaction with students as they researched in English, the origins of Mid Autumn Festival. Moon cakes were shared.

A glimpse into the history of China was observed as the delegation climbed the Great Wall, visited the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. At the Summer Palace we learnt how the term Dragon Queen began and the power behind the yellow curtain as the unseen empress ruled a young son and young nephew sight unseen. The moa donated by Roger Duff of the Canterbury Museum is on display in the Beijing Natural History Museum. The NZ embassy in Beijing welcomed the delegation and all were impressed by the carved whare.

During a visit to IFLYTECH, an AI company, technology that marks handwritten tests and directs students to next learning tasks based on their specific needs were among the many technological advances being used.

Rewi Alley's influence is greatest in Gansu province in Northwest China, on the Silk Route, where he established schools in Lanzhou and Shandan. Selwyn has a Sister City relationship with Shandan, while the Christchurch China Committee has a relationship with the Gansu Province.



Presentation by Andy England And Amanda Wright of Darfield High School to Shandan Bailie Principal Mr Peng.

Shandan Bailie Vocational College has had a Sister School relationship with Darfield High School for almost 26 years. Principal Andy England, accompanied by International Director Amanda Wright, presented Principal Peng with a traditional Maori weapon called a tewhatewha which symbolizes the kindness between the worlds' peoples. The two faces of the tewatewhau represent both Chinese and New Zealand people. So that though we may be far apart we are joined together. The College's Rewi Alley Museum documents the huge input of Rewi into improving the lives of local people. The Vocational College and associated senior high school now have 7300 students most of whom live on site.

In Shandan the delegation visited the recently refurbished library which has manuscripts that are over a thousand years old. Seeing the spartan former home of Rewi Alley and the magnificent new museum that documented Rewi Alley's life and work and displayed treasures that he donated to the people of Shandan was a highlight.

All the delegation visited Qingquan School which is forging a relationship with Darfield Primary School. The other four Malvern primary schools, Springfield, Sheffield, Windwhistle and Greendale have also been paired with Sister Schools. There is huge disparity in size. The smallest Malvern School represented has 28 students; the Shandan primary schools had up to 3000 students each.



Paper cutting class in a Shandan primary school



The delegation at the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang



The moa at The Chinese Natural History Museum in Beijing. It was donated by Roger Duff of the Canterbury Museum.



Tiananmen Square looking towards the Forbidden City



The sculpture of Rewi Alley and George Hogg outside Shandan Bailie Vocational College

A visit to Shandan No1 Middle School provides another opportunity for a Sister School in Selwyn.

In Lanzhou the delegation visited Lanzhou City University; previously the Bailie Oil School established by Rewi Alley. In the craft section of the university students were engaged in pottery, ceramics, print making and textiles. While in Lanzhou, Mairehau High School Principal Harry Romana was able to visit the Lanzhou No 1 Middle School to establish a Sister School relationship. His school's gifts of a whakairo to represent the two cultures; a mere as a sign of leadership and strength and a Korowai made by a Mairehau School teacher.

Dr Peggy Burrows visited the North West University Middle School in Lanzhou, to also establish a relationship.

While in Gansu the delegation visited the Zhangye Rainbow landform and the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang which house Buddhist sculptures and paintings of over two thousand years. A visit to the Dunhuang Dunes, part of the Gobi desert, gave participants the chance to climb to the top of the enormous dunes or ride a camel.

The final stop in China was in Shanghai where a walk on The Bund in the evening was a highlight after visiting Rewi Alley's former home site, from when he first arrived in China in 1927.

The final school visited was an international school, Yew Chung, where the teaching was in Chinese and English and all classes had a teacher in both languages.

Dr Peggy Burrows of Haeata College accompanied by Harry Romana of Mairehau High School, were able to fly to Wuhan another Christchurch Sister City and sign Sister School agreements with two schools. This relationship signing had been delayed by COVID-19.

The delegation's visit was sponsored by the Beijing

Language and Culture University, The Christchurch Chinese Consulate, the Selwyn Sister City Committee, the Christchurch China Sister City Committee and the participants' schools. The expected future growth in relationships of teachers and students is testament to the ongoing legacy of Rewi Alley. The cultural exchange and mutual understanding built within the group and with our many Chinese hosts made for a meaningful trip

Many more young people in both our schools and in the Chinese schools we visited now have the opportunity for building on the relationships established. This is a strength of the Sister City and Sister School programme.



In Wuhan Dr Peggy Burrows of Haeata College supported by Harry Romana of Mairehau High School

# Dunedin renews ties with Sister City Shanghai

By James Hall, Enterprise Dunedin

Dunedin recently renewed ties with its Sister City Shanghai during a visit by a civic delegation from the Chinese city last month.

Mayor of Dunedin Jules Radich welcomed Shanghai Vice Mayor Mr Hua Yuan, who led an 11-strong delegation, and China Consul General Ms He Ying at Dunedin's Municipal Chambers.

Mr Radich said it was a pleasure to greet Ōtepoti's sister city friends back to our city.

The Vice Mayor is the highest-ranking official from Shanghai to visit Ōtepoti Dunedin since 2017, and the delegation's visit is the first face-to-face meeting between representatives of the two sister cities since pre-COVID times.

The delegation was welcomed by mana whenua at the Shanghai Room in Dunedin's Municipal Chambers with a mihi whakatau, followed by morning tea, speeches, an exchange of gifts and a group photo.

After a presentation on Dunedin's Zero Carbon policy, the delegation visited Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden, Silver Fern Farms and the University of Otago.

"It's always a privilege to host our sister city friends and return the warm hospitality shown whenever our representatives visit Shanghai," Mr Radich said.

"Our shared cultural ties go back more than a century, to the arrival of the first Chinese settlers during the gold rush era, and they continue to shape our city today.

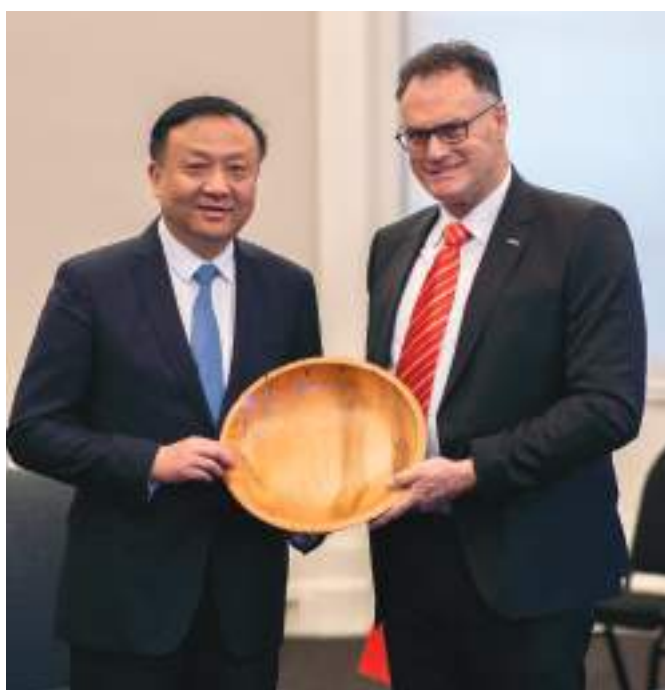
"There's no doubt our sister city bond is Dunedin's most important international relationship, encompassing arts and culture, science and technology, business and trade, and, of course, education – from 'sister school' relationships to student exchanges and joint study programmes, as well as research collaboration.

"COVID border restrictions may have prevented us meeting in person for a few years, but it's great to be able to welcome our friends back to Ōtepoti in person."

Mr Radich was invited to lead a reciprocal visit to Shanghai, which he expects to take up later this year.



The delegation from Shanghai is welcomed at Dunedin Municipal Chambers.



Shanghai Vice Mayor Mr Hua Yuan is presented a gift by Dunedin Mayor Jules Radich.

## 2023 – 2024 GCNZ Board and Advisors

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