MINUTES OF MEETING

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2011

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Jean Hay AM	Mayor
Cr Alan Le Surf	Councillor (Chair)
Other Representatives	
John O'Brien	Community Member
Ian Host	Balgowlah Boys Campus
Diane Sullivan	Community Member
Tatsuko Ryan	Community Member
Helen Foster	Community Member
Tony Foster	Community Member
Suzanne Smith	Mackellar Girls Campus
Wayne Collins	Community Member
Gay Collins	Community Member
Elise Gilet	Community Member
Carmel Smith	Community Member
Peter Stephens	Community Member
Judi Mudge	Community Member
Amanda Kibby	St Paul's College
Council Staff	
Ross Fleming	Deputy General Manager - People Place & Infrastructure
Elaine Kent	Sister Cities Co-ordinator

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Sister Cities Committee** met on Wednesday 26 October 2011 to consider matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.00pm in the Councillors Room.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE **ACTION**

Leave of absence - Sumiyo Mimori, Kym Swaby, Leslee Grant, Yoko Sullivan and David Freeman.

Apology – Jack Nash, Lyn Schwab, Trevor Schwab, Vanessa Briggs and Sue O'Brien were an apology.

Welcome - Ian Host, Japanese Language Teacher, Balgowlah Boys Campus (maternity leave for Vanessa Briggs) was welcomed to the meeting.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

One declaration of pecuniary interest was noted – Diane Sullivan had provided consulting work to Council.

There were no declarations of non-pecuniary interest.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Sister Cities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th August 2011 were approved.
Moved: Gay Collins Seconded: John O'Brien

MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

ITEM 4 Friendship City and Sister City Projects/Exchanges

4.1 Taito-ku, Japan

4.1.1May 2012 visit to Taito for 30th Anniversary of Manly and Taito-ku Sister City Relationship

SCC Working Group – Lyn Schwab

Members expressing interest in a 4 day visit to Taito - leaving Sydney Tuesday 15th May 2012 (their return date to be decided by themselves) are:
Wayne and Gay Collins
Alan Le Surf
John and Sue O'Brien
Tatsuko Ryan
Diane Sullivan
Tony and Helen Foster
Lyn and Trevor Schwab

Lyn Schwab offered to investigate flights/side trips and liaise with members.

4.1.2 Proposed Virtual Exchange with a Taito school

Expressions of interest were given by the Japanese Language teachers of St Paul's College and Balgowlah Boys Campus to the Taito request for future student virtual exchanges. The proposal awaits further advice from Taito City.

4.1.3 Proposed Wood Block Art Exhibition in Manly

After discussion, it was agreed that the Japan Foundation be approached to seek a joint collaboration exhibition of the historic Taito art works in 2012 during the 30th Anniversary year. Manly Sister Cities and the Japan Foundation have a 30 year history themselves; the Japan Foundation has their own art exhibition space. Manly Art Gallery & Museum is unable to accommodate the exhibition.

4.1.4 TICC

Information from TICC's website handed to Peter and Elise ahead of their December 2011 visit to Taito.

4.2 Odawara, Japan

4.2.1 2011 Manly/Odawara Student Exchange Programme

The Chaperones report is attached.
Members would like the tips and suggestions provided in Sue & Peter's report to be added to the student handouts.

4.2.2 Other matters:

- CD's and DVD's received from Odawara City handed to Sue and Peter. Copies will be made available to teachers, as requested, for classroom tutorial

- Insurance reimbursement was noted
- An EOI email will be sent to the SCC providing dates for the 2012 student exchange to act as a chaperone
- Mayor Kenichi Kato's letter of thanks was read
- It was suggested that the student Application Form for the 2012 exchange be revised (Liberty and Vanessa assisting) — Liberty Campbell, Vanessa Briggs

4.3 Jing'an, China

Members were advised that an email had been received from Jing'an today informing Council that the delegation now have their municipal government approval for a November visit to Australia. They are applying for public passports and visas; plan to stay in Australia about 5 days, and have set aside a half-day or one-day official visit to Manly. — Sister Cities Co-ordinator

Once all details are received an email will be sent to members.

4.4 Yeongdo-gu, South Korea

Chairman Cr Alan Le Surf, Tatsuko Ryan, John O'Brien, Lyn and Trevor Schwab, and General Manager Henry Wong, visited Yeongdo for the 19th Bridge Festival 1st – 6th September 2011 – members said it was a great trip.

John's photos from the trip will be shown at the November meeting.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the recent Korean flag raising ceremony in Manly in recognition of Korea's Foundation Day and Korea Week, and advised that the Consul General of Korea in Sydney had thanked Manly Council for the ceremony and warm hospitality, and continued friendship during this Australia-Korea Year of Friendship.

4.5 Gunnedah, Australia

<u>4.5.1 The 2011 'Beach to Bush' Programme</u>

The chaperones report on the August visit to Gunnedah for the 1st 'Beach to Bush' Programme was accepted.

<u>4.5.2 The 2012 'Bush to Beach' Programme</u>

The suggestion that consideration be given, when the Gunnedah group come to Manly in 2012, to put them up at Narrabeen Fitness Camp rather than sleep on mats at Queenscliff Surf Club, was not a preferred option. Members voiced about the high costs involved, and the fact that the programme should remain beach focussed, with the stay in Manly.

Camp beds, or similar sleeping arrangements, will be investigated through consultation with Queenscliff Surf Club.

Tony Foster will look into QSLSC event/carnival dates for the 2012 season and advise the Sister Cities Co-ordinator so a date can be determined when to hold the 2nd 'Bush to Beach' exchange programme. — Tony Foster

Gunnedah Shire Council can then be advised of the dates, for acceptance, and so planning can commence.

<u>4.5.3 Gunnedah's request for an adult programme</u>

The Chairman advised members, that during the August visit, there was a request for a Councillors and staff delegation from Gunnedah Shire Council to visit Manly during 2012. Sister Cities — Sister Cities Co-ordiantor

Co-ordinator will liaise with Gunnedah Shire Mayor and General Manager's PA regarding this.

4.6 Huntington Beach, California USA
A draft MOU will be prepared and sent to Huntington Beach for consideration.

4.7 Waikiki, Hawaii
The Mayor advised that:

- Manly has been declared a World Surfing Reserve (the only one in Australia) alongside Malibu in the USA & Ericeira in Portugal
- Malibu have expressed interest in being a Sister City with Manly due to their surfing connection
- she has been elected Chair of the World Surfing Reserve
- Kelly Slater, surfing World Ambassador, will arrive in Manly the second half of February 2012 during the Australian Open of Surfing
- Manly was called 'Surf City' in the early 1900's

The Chairman advised that he had recently seen Huntington Beach t-shirts in Target.

4.8 Kenya, Africa
Interest from Kapsabet Municipality, for a Sister City Relationship with Manly, was noted. Due to an already busy schedule it was decided to leave this with Council.

There was no further Friendship City/Sister City matters to report.

Recommendation
That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 5 FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance

The end of August, and end of September, Financial Reports, were presented and accepted, with the proviso that two expenses in the August 2011 Budget Account, incurred for transport during the Odawara visit to Manly (for bookings made on Odawara's behalf) be transferred to the Odawara Exchange Account:

1. $836.36 On Course coach hire Manly/Taronga Zoo/airport
2. $1,447.28 Sydney Tourism Group coach hire to Blue Mts

Moved: Peter Stephens
Seconded: Tony Foster for August Financial Statement

Moved: Elise Gilet
Seconded: John O'Brien for September Financial Statement

Recommendation
That the report be received and noted.

ITEM 6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence, In and Out, was noted.
Resolved:
That the information be received and noted.

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 SCC Membership

After discussion about the busy workload for Sister Cities, with the addition of 2 more Sister Cities to be established in 2012 (Waikiki and Huntington Beach USA); reactivation of Jing'an relationship (student/teacher exchanges proposed); and Taito-ku (student virtual exchange proposed and 30 year Anniversary); and, as Council had been approached by local persons who were interested in joining the Committee, it was decided, that SCC members who are on extended Leave of Absence be asked to indicate if they will be returning to the Committee at the beginning of 2012, and if not, they be asked to become a 'Friend of the Committee'.

This would allow vacancies for new members who can assist with growing projects and programmes on the 2012 calendar.

'Friend's' of the Committee would be kept up to date with SCC matters by electronic provision of information.

As valued former members, a 'Friend of the Committee' could then re-apply if their circumstances changed eg work commitments reduced, or they returned to Australia, if a vacancy became available on the Committee.

Recommendation that:

"Sister Cities Committee members who are on extended Leave of Absence be approached to become a Friend of the Committee to provide vacancies on the Committee."

Moved: Wayne Collins

Seconded: Elise Gilet

7.2 Gift Bags

Committee members supported the idea of having a 'sister cities' gift bag ie: purpose logo carry bag to use as part of gift giving for sister and friendship city visits. A sample was tabled and this was accepted and will be further investigated.

7.3 Sister Cities Australia

Members were advised that the SCA National Conference would be held in Davenport Tasmania 11 – 14 November 2012.

There were no other matters of General Business.

ITEM 8 NB: CHANGE TO NEXT MEETING DATE:

Due to a Chinese Jing'an Delegation visit to Manly on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 (the appointed date of the next meeting), at the time of sending these minutes, the revised date of the November SCC meeting is:

Wednesday 30th November 2011
Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm - Councillors Room

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

2011 MANLY ODAWARA STUDENT EXCHANGE REPORT
BY
CHAPERONES SUE SMITH AND PETER STEPHENS

INTRODUCTION

1. The scheduled 2011 Manly Odawara Student Exchange took place between Monday 04 – 19 July with the return exchange commencing between 02 – 09 August. This year's exchange comprised of 22 Students (11 Boys, 11 Girls) from 6 schools: Balgowlah Boys Campus, Mackellar Girls Campus, St Paul's College, Stella Maris College, Manly Selective Campus and Freshwater Senior Campus.

2. Chaperones Sue Smith and Peter Stephens accompanied this year's Student Exchange from Manly to Odawara. Manly Council Sister Cities Committee Member, Yoko Sullivan, currently on leave and residing in Odawara, Japan, provided invaluable support and assistance, as a third chaperone for the Manly group, while in Odawara.

ORIENTATION TRAINING SESSIONS

3. This year 5 @ 1.5 hour orientation sessions were held at Mackellar Girls Campus. The longer sessions allowed a greater opportunity for the students to get to know each other and to maximise their preparation for the exchange during each session. Assistance from other committee members and language teachers from schools of the selected students throughout the orientation period, provided a great help to both the chaperones and students in their preparations for the exchange.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

4. The exchange program in Odawara this year comprised an amazing selection of varied and interesting activities, many of which gave students a rarely available, personal experience far beyond that of a mere tourist. Activities included a day trip to Disneyland, official Welcome and Farewell ceremonies, visits to local high schools, primary schools, pre-schools and universities, visits to Odawara Castle and Hakone Shrine, sightseeing around Odawara and Tokyo, various cultural activities, homestay days and Family BBQ day. The latter could have been doubled in length, as it provided such a wonderful opportunity for students and families to bond in such a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Manly students also presented the Mayor of Odawara with messages of support and sympathy from the people of the Manly Community to the Japanese People in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami, which struck Japan earlier in the year.

The program in Manly included a Manly Experience day, scavenger hunt in the city, BBQ at Shelly Beach, visit to the Blue Mountains, sightseeing around Manly and North Head, Official Welcome at Manly Council Chambers, homestay days and a Farewell Ceremony at the Warringah Golf Club.

STUDENT LUGGAGE

5. Upon arrival at Narita Airport on Tuesday 5th July, the Manly chaperones were informed that one Manly student's luggage had been left at Sydney Airport. The reason offered for the mishap, was thought to have been the incorrect name/labelling on the student's luggage tags. The issue was quickly resolved through liaison with the Narita Airport Staff, who were extremely helpful. They promptly arranged with

Qantas for the luggage to be put onto the next flight from Sydney to Tokyo and then forwarded on to Odawara Council. Much to the student's relief, the luggage arrived at Odawara City Council Chambers on Wednesday 6th July and was immediately returned to him. Qantas also provided financial compensation to the student for any inconvenience or additional costs that may have resulted from this incident.

STUDENT ILLNESS

6. During the exchange, one of the Manly students became sick and developed a high temperature. As a precaution, the student was taken to Dr Yamada's Medical Clinic for diagnosis and treatment. After being diagnosed by Dr Yamada with a fever and symptoms of heat stroke and dehydration, owing to the extremely hot weather, and lack of eating, the student was given medication to help improve his condition. It was decided to remove the student from his homestay family and place him with the male chaperone, Peter Stephens, so that he could be more closely monitored on a daily basis, by both the chaperone and Dr Yamada, himself. Within a couple of days, the student's condition improved and he was able to return to his homestay family and rejoin the daily group activities.

It is advisable that Manly students ensure that they drink plenty of water and wear caps etc at all times, because of the extreme weather conditions.

CONCLUSION

7. The 2011 Manly Odawara Exchange provided a hugely successful and exceptional experience for the students involved, who acted as fantastic ambassadors for Manly. Several students also expressed their interest in returning to Japan in the future and their desire to continue their studies, with a view to learning more about Japan, its language and its culture.

In addition we have enclosed a summary of feedback and suggestions that may be considered useful when planning future exchanges.

We would like to thank Mr Ozaki, the Chairman of the Tokimeki International Summer School and his Committee Members, Manly Council Sister Cities Committee Chairman Alan Le Surf, Co-ordinators Elaine Kent and Fiona Stuart of the Manly Council Sister Cities Committee, the Odawara City Council Members and the Manly Council Sister Cities Committee Members and staff for coordinating and supporting this amazing exchange and taking it into its 21st year.

2011 Manly Odawara Exchange Chaperones

Sue Smith
Peter Stephens