



*"Connecting People – Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future"*

# Welcome to Nelson

*Tēnā rā koutou katoa, Nau mai, Haere mai ki Whakatū.*

Hello and welcome to Nelson.

It is our pleasure to host the 2016 Sister Cities New Zealand Conference here in Nelson from 28-30 April 2016 with the theme "Connecting People – Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future" .

Connecting cities, regions and countries begins with connecting people. Strong individual and community relationships build solid foundations for success. With the third largest percentage of migrants per population in New Zealand, Nelson is home to a range of diverse cultures and communities. Connecting these communities is vital to growing a vibrant and prosperous city.

In Nelson, we are fortunate to have close international relationships with four cities: Miyazu, Huangshi, Eureka and Yangjiang.

Just last year, we celebrated our 20 year relationship with Chinese sister city, Huangshi, by re-signing our Memorandum of Understanding.

2016 will see us celebrate the 40-year anniversary of our relationship with Japanese city, Miyazu, and we will acknowledge this special milestone at the Conference.

Two splendid sister city gardens within Nelson city form living, breathing links to both Huangshi and Miyazu. The gardens are enjoyed on a daily basis by locals and visitors alike, we look forward to sharing them with you.

A relevant and varied conference programme is well supported by inspirational speakers, we are thrilled that Nancy M. Huppert, Global Envoy, Sister Cities International will give our keynote address. The Conference also incorporates the Sister Cities New Zealand Annual Awards Dinner. This year, the dinner will celebrate 35 years since the establishment of Sister Cities New Zealand.

We trust you will enjoy the opportunity to explore the spectacular, creative, vibrant region that is Nelson Tasman during your stay.

Ko te tūmanako ki mua rā, haere mai nau mai ki Whakatū.  
Welcome to Nelson.

Rachel Reese  
Mayor of Nelson



# President's Message

*Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa*

On behalf of the Board of Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) warm greetings to all the participants to 2016 Annual Conference in Nelson.

We would like to thank Nelson City Council for hosting this year's special conference, which marks 35 years of SCNZ.

SCNZ was established in 1981 as a non-profit organisation to promote global connections through people-to-people exchanges. It was started with the significant support of Air New Zealand and the hard work of a few volunteers who travelled extensively around the country to promote the movement.

35 years later it has grown into a well established organisation with 32 council, five corporate, 16 community and three school members and is run by seven dedicated volunteer Board members with assistance from a National Administrator.

SCNZ would not have been able to exist and succeed without the passion and energy from countless individuals and organisations, and I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to them all.

For our future and sustainability, we need to expand our network to develop further working relationships which encourage regional

collaboration and youth development. Our experiences gained over the last 35 years should be passed on to young people who can continue fostering global connections and interactions.

The world is becoming closer with the connections we make with people around the globe everyday. One in four New Zealanders are born overseas, and there are over 200 ethnicities living together in the community, making New Zealand more cosmopolitan than ever.

The concept of global connections should be applied to our daily lives, as it is becoming increasingly important to be able to learn and respect different cultures and traditions in order for people to live and work harmoniously in a safe environment. I trust this approach in the long term will show a real richness of our country.

Thank you for joining us in the celebration of this special conference of the 35th anniversary of our establishment. I hope you will find the conference an opportunity to exchange of worldviews, share information and experiences, as well as establish genuine people-to-people relationships.

Yours sincerely,  
Hiromi Morris  
President



## Points to Ponder

Nelson is a perfect place to let your creative juices flow.

*Creating and sustaining  
strategic alliances and  
partnerships*

*Connecting globally, thriving locally  
- local communities being globally  
connected, culturally confident and  
having strong sister city relationships*



While you're enjoying the speakers, exploring the sister city gardens or taking time to reflect we invite you to ponder on:

*Resource and  
relationship sharing  
to create win-win  
outcomes*

*Keeping the  
conversations alive  
- sustaining the support  
and engagement of  
young people*

*Celebrating success  
and milestones*





# Conference Programme...

## DAY ONE ~ 28 April

**5.30-6.30pm** Welcome Reception & Mihi Whakatau –  
Rutherford Hotel Nelson

Delegates will then have a free evening to meet,  
mingle & enjoy dinner at one of Nelson's many  
centrally located cafes & restaurants (own cost).



## DAY TWO ~ 29 April

<b>8.00am</b>	Registration Desk Opens
<b>8.45am</b>	Delegates move through & are seated
<b>9.00am</b>	MC Introduction & Welcome Opening address - Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese
<b>9:15am</b>	Keynote speaker – Nancy M Huppert, Global Envoy - Sister Cities International
<b>9:45am</b>	Presentation by Mark Pearson, Lead Adviser - Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
<b>10:00am</b>	Presentation by Mr Xie Yuan, Vice President - Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>10:45am</b>	Andrew Petheram, Nelson City Council - Nelson's Sister City Gardens
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Off-site visit &amp; presentation at Miyazu Garden &amp; Huangshi Garden</b>
<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>LUNCH – Miyazu Garden</b>
<b>1:15 pm</b>	Arrive back at Rutherford Hotel
<b>1:30pm</b>	Nelson-Miyazu Sister City Association – Celebrating a 40-Year Sister City Connection

<b>1.45pm</b>	Lorellin Syben, Department of Internal Affairs, Nelson 'Thinking Outside the Square for Funding & Creating Strategic Partnerships'
<b>2.00pm</b>	Mayor Kelvin Coe, Selwyn District - New relationships with USA & Indonesia
<b>2.15-3.15pm</b>	Group Discussion & Report Back
<b>3.15pm</b>	Presentation by 2017 Host City - Invercargill
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
<b>4:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Sister Cities New Zealand AGM</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>6.00-6.15pm</b>	Coaches depart Rutherford Hotel for 2016 Sister City Awards Dinner at Saxton Oval Lounge
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SCNZ Awards Dinner incorporating a celebration of the 35-Year Anniversary of SCNZ inception</b>
<b>10.15pm</b>	Awards Dinner concludes, coaches return to Rutherford Hotel

## DAY THREE ~ 30 April (Youth Development Focus)

- 9.45am** MC Introduction & Welcome
- 10:00am** Bing Lou, SCNZ Youth Director  
- Launch of SCNZ Youth Sub Committee
- 10.20am** Presentation by Mr Katsunori Kamibo, Director  
- Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)
- 10.40am** William (Bill) Wilson, President,  
Sister Cities Australia  
- Sister Cities Australia Youth Programme
- 11.00am** Jonathan Glassey,  
Asia New Zealand Foundation Intern  
- Exchange, internship & work experiences in Japan
- 11:20am** Christine Ward, NZ China Friendship Society  
Nelson Branch  
- Nelson-Huangshi Schools' Art Exchange Project
- 11.40am** Taylah Shuker, Nelson Youth Council & Waimea  
College students  
- Waimea College's recent Fujimi-machi exchange
- 12:00pm** **LUNCH**
- 1:00pm** Jessica Czarnecki, Tempe Sister Cities  
- now studying at Victoria University

- 1.15pm** Aaron Hape, Executive Director  
- Commonwealth Youth NZ
- 1:30pm** Group Discussion/Workshop & Report Back
- 2.45pm** Farewell & last words from SCNZ
- 3.00pm** **Conference programme concludes with Afternoon Tea**





## Neil Hodgson, MC

Neil is a born and bred Nelsonian. Because he loves the region he tends to get involved in various community groups.

He is a past president of Commerce Nelson, was chairman of the steering group that facilitated the Nelson region's first Regional Economic Development Strategy and established the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency for Nelson City Council in 2003.

Neil has a personal background in commercial real estate and with his wife has invested in a number of properties and small businesses.

He is currently the Practice Manager for Savage & Savage, Chartered Accountants, a business owned by his wife. He is also a wine and food writer with a weekly column in the Nelson Mail and other national publications.



## Nancy M Huppert, Keynote Speaker

Nancy M. Huppert has participated in sister cities activities since 1987. She was appointed the first New York State Coordinator for Sister Cities International in 1988. In that capacity, she traveled throughout the State making presentations and providing local groups with information and assistance. Nancy organized four New York State Sister Cities conferences and played an integral role in planning and implementing other State activities.

Ms Huppert was appointed to the Board of International Sister Cities of Rochester in 1989 and served as President for nine years. Under her leadership Rochester added two new sister cities and initiated a friendship with Xianyang, China which became Rochester's eleventh relationship. Her guidance has resulted in program recognition from the International Business Council as well as the Greater Rochester Visitor's Association.

In 1996 Nancy was elected to the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. and shortly after was appointed the SCI National Task Force Coordinator for Youth and Education. In that capacity she organized workshops and provided information to youth groups throughout the United States. For five years Ms Huppert served as Vice President of Sister cities International and thereafter became President in 2001. Ms Huppert was appointed to the position of Global Envoy for Sister Cities international. She is one of three to achieve this

status. This is an outreach program and among her responsibilities is to represent SCI at international and domestic conferences and meetings; visit embassies for the purpose of disseminating information; as well as promoting and supporting new global relationships. Ms Huppert serves on the Advisory Board of the Warner School at the University of Rochester and the New York State Advisory Council for Students Studying Abroad. She has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rwanda Relief Organization and of International Organizations of Rochester. Under the auspices of the American Association of University Women, Ms Huppert was the coordinator of the Women Helping Girls Program. In addition she served on the Phi Delta Kappa Executive Boards and held the office of President of that organization. Ms Huppert has lectured locally, nationally, and internationally on both innovative education programs and sister cities activities. She has also participated in panel presentations and discussions at the United Nations for UN Habitat. For four years she participated on a panel reviewing and evaluating proposals for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Nancy has represented Sister Cities International in 128 countries and 42 states.

She is the recipient of numerous awards. Among them, the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed by the United Nations.



## Mark Pearson

Mark Pearson is Lead Adviser in the North Asia Division of MFAT, with responsibility for New Zealand's relations with Japan and Korea. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988 and has served twice in the New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo (most recently as Deputy Head of Mission, 2007-2011) and in the New Zealand Embassy in Seoul (2001-2004). He was New Zealand representative to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (2005-2007) and Senior Economic Official for the East Asia Summit and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (2012). He assumed his present position in early 2013.



## Xie Yuan

Vice-President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)

Born in Beijing in February 1959.  
University graduate.

1985-1998  
Staff member, Deputy Director and Director of division, Department of American and Oceanian Affairs, CPAFFC

1998-2000  
First Secretary, Chinese Embassy in the United States

2000-2005  
Consultant and Director of Division, Department of American and Oceanian Affairs, CPAFFC

2005-2013  
Deputy Director-General and Director-General, Department of American and Oceanian Affairs, CPAFFC

2013-  
Vice President of CPAFFC

Mr Xie Yuan is married with one daughter.



## Andrew Petheram

Andrew Petheram has been employed by Nelson City Council since 1986 as Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, Manager of Parks and Recreation and more recently Asset Planner Parks and Facilities.

In 1995 the City's Parks and Recreation team completed the Miyazu Japanese Garden, designed by colleague Peter Coubrough, in recognition of Nelson's Sister City relationship with Miyazu, Japan.

In 2001 Andrew was invited to Nelson's Sister City, Huangshi, in the Hubei Province of China to gather information to design and establish a Chinese garden in Nelson. The garden was completed in 2007 and has proved a popular inner city sanctuary and place of contemplation.



## Marilyn Gibbs

Marilyn has always had an interest people of all cultures and currently works with the International Student Adviser at Nayland College in Stoke, Nelson. Each year approximately 150 students come to Nayland College for varying lengths of time to experience another culture and to improve their English.

In most cases the students get to also visit Lone Oak Farm in Wakefield which Marilyn and her husband Colin own. This is a family farm that has been in the Gibbs name since 1847 and Colin is the 4th generation to farm it. Most delegates on Sister City visits to Nelson also get to visit the farm and enjoy close contacts with sheep, cows, dogs, hens etc

Prior to this she worked for 24 years as CEO of the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce and this role also brought her into contact with people of differing ethnicities. Marilyn has been a member & active supporter of all three of Nelson's sister city affiliations over the last 16 years & is a current member (and past Chair) of Nelson City Council's Sister City Co-ordinating Group.



## Lorellin Syben

Lorellin Syben is a Community Advisor at the Department of Internal Affairs. Lorellin has worked in the community and non-profit sector for over a decade. She has done everything from running grassroots organisations to stakeholder management for an international charity and governance roles. Lorellin has a Communications degree and worked in Wellington in banking fraud and public relations before moving into public sector and non-profit work.

Lorellin's expertise is in strategic communication, weaving a story and utilising technology and social media as a low cost way to connect with stakeholders. Lorellin has recently completed training in Systems Thinking methodology as a tool for business improvement, which she has been utilising to improve the funding process for customers of The Department of Internal Affairs.



## Mayor Kelvin Coe

Born at Lincoln, married to Gem with three grown up daughters. They have farmed a mixed sheep, cropping and dairy farm at Coes Ford, Irwell for the last 40 years.

Kelvin graduated from Lincoln University with a Diploma Valuation & Farm Management and a Bachelor Agriculture Commerce.

Following graduation from Lincoln University with a Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management (in 1966) Kelvin spent three years working for the Thai Public Welfare Department at Nikom Huaykla in Srisaket Province as an agricultural advisor.

He has had an active involvement in community affairs including holding the positions of Deputy Chair of the Standards Association of N.Z. (Govt appointee), President of North Canterbury Federated Farmers, President of Ellesmere Tennis Association and Chairman of the Leeston Primary School Board of Trustees.

Kelvin is in his third term as Mayor of Selwyn District Council and prior to that was a Councillor for 12 years.



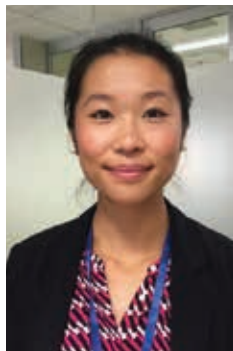


## Bing-Ying Lou

Bing has a strong passion for youth advocacy, sustainable development and international affairs, and has a range of experience in the non-profit sector, most recently returning from an earthquake recovery and rebuild programme in Nepal. She was also a New Zealand representative on the 33Sixty leadership and development programme 2015, collaborating with 100 young leaders across the Commonwealth to tackle migration challenges.

Bing is a native Mandarin speaker, and was born in Shanghai, China and moved to Wellington at the age of four. She was a member of the Wellington City Youth Council for four years, and is current Chair of Evolve Wellington Youth Service and a member of the Asia New Zealand Leadership Network.

Bing works as an Adviser for Market Access North Asia at the Ministry for Primary Industries and has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, International Relations and Media Studies from Victoria University of Wellington.



## Katsunori Kamibo

The Centre welcomes Mr Katsunori Kamibo as the new Director of the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney). Mr Kamibo has an in-depth knowledge of local government, holding recent high level-roles in Japan as Director General of Finance Bureau, Sakai City Government; Deputy Director, Office for Decentralisation Reform, Cabinet Office; and as Director, Municipal Administration Division, General Affairs Bureau, Wakayama Prefectural Government.

In the Ministry of Interior and in the Japanese Central Government's Cabinet Office, Mr Kamibo closely worked on the planning of decentralisation reform initiatives implemented in 2000 and in 2011, and is very keen to share with the Australasian sector what was learned through these reforms.



## William (Bill) Wilson

President of Sister Cities Australia comes to us from Devonport, Tasmania, Australia.

Now retired after some 25 years in financial services Bill is a Vietnam Veteran serving with the 6th Battalion RAR/NZ from 1968 - 70.

Former elected Alderman of the Devonport City Council. Completed over 35 years service in October 2014

First involvement with Sister Cities when in 1989 elected inaugural Chairman of the newly formed Devonport Sister Cities Association.

First attended a National Sister Cities Conference in 1989 in Shepparton, Victoria. Elected to the Executive of the Australian Sister Cities Association, (now Sister Cities Australia), in 1994. Served in this role until 2000 before taking a year away from all positions.

2000 saw a return to the Executive Committee before successfully running unopposed for the Presidency in 2008, a position still held.

Represented SCA at conferences in Beijing, Shanghai, Dunedin, Tauranga and Kaohsiung, (Taiwan). Sole Australian representative to the first ever Global Peace Forum in Cairo in 2004.



## Jonathan Glassey

Jonathan Glassey is a recent graduate from the University of Canterbury and currently employed by Shuttlerock in Christchurch as a Support Engineer for their Content Driven Business Platform.

Jonathan's interest in Japan began in 2008 when he was given the opportunity to travel to Nikaho City as a part of the Christchurch City Council's Ambassador exchange programme.

After entering University with the goal of graduating with both Computer Science and Japanese qualifications, Jonathan studied for a year at Bunkyo University in Saitama Prefecture and achieved Level 2 in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Returning to New Zealand in 2014, Jonathan Graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science and a Diploma in Japanese Language.

Finally in 2015 Jonathan was nominated by the Asia New Zealand Foundation to participate as a part of their yearly Internship Programme with the Kyushu Railway Company. This gave him the opportunity to experience the Japanese work environment first hand!

Above all else Jonathan is a big advocate for second language learning. He mentors and inspires many to explore the Japanese language & culture.



## Taylah Shuker

Taylah Shuker is a Year 12 student from Waimea College, who is heavily involved in the Nelson Youth Council and Sister City activities. Being a member of the Nelson Youth Council, Taylah regularly represents the youth voice on various issues in the Nelson Region. Alongside this, she writes submissions to the Nelson City Council, organizes youth events and attends subgroup meetings on issues such as youth employment.



Taylah is very passionate about Japanese and this led her to an 18-day trip around Honshu, visiting places like Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima as part of the annual reciprocal exchange between sister cities Richmond & Fujimi-machi. The most significant part of the trip for Taylah was the 4-day home stay in Fujimi-Machi. This exchange led Taylah to develop her Japanese ability, fully immerse herself in the Japanese culture and meet some amazing new lifelong friends.

Joining Taylah to share their impressions as participants in the exchange programme with Fujimi-machi in Japan will be: Rachel Browning, Michael Johnsen, Alana Stilborn & Jaimie Prestidge.



## Christine Ward BSc, M.Ed

Christine Ward, originally teaching high school chemistry and physics, moved into counselling, educational guidance, and teacher training in mid-career. Writing and publishing several books on new approaches to teaching and learning led to association with education reform movements in several countries, translation of her books into Thai and Chinese, and involvement with universities, teacher training and education consultancy.



From 2002, in association with Rewi Alley Academy and Beijing Normal University, Christine has been training groups of teachers, administrators and researchers from China to use 'brainfriendly' teaching and learning strategies from early childhood to universities.

From 2010-2015, Christine was president of the Nelson Branch of New Zealand China Friendship Society and serving on Nelson City Council's Sister City Coordinating Committee. This involved working with officials in Nelson and Sister City Huangshi, hosting delegations, and managing projects promoting friendship and understanding with a special focus on young people.

## Jessica Czarnecki

Jessica is from Tempe, Arizona. She first came to New Zealand with the Sister Cities program in 2011. After return trips to New Zealand in 2013 and 2014 she transferred to Victoria University of Wellington to finish her degree. She is currently working on her Bachelor of Science in Ecology with a minor in Marine Biology. She is working on a thesis about the effects of water temperature on the reproduction of two species of sponges off the south coast of Wellington. When she graduates in July she will move back to Arizona.



## Aaron Hape

Since 2009 Aaron has directed the operations for Commonwealth Youth New Zealand. He has worked in the civil service as advisor to the New Zealand Government and to Members of Parliament. He currently works at the Ministry of Justice. He served as a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Parliamentary elections.

Aaron was selected to attend 33Fifty, the Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme, in Scotland in 2014. He was named as a New Zealander of the Year Local Hero medalist and was appointed to sit on the Queen's Young Leaders Programme advisory panel and board. He is also a member of the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Leadership Network.

### Relevant connections

- Member, Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Network
- Advisory Panellist and Board Member, The Queen's Young Leaders Programme
- Member, Royal Commonwealth Society
- Founder and Executive Director, Commonwealth Youth New Zealand



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# A Message from the Conference Coordinator

*Nau mai, Haere mai*

ネルソンへようこそ

欢迎

Welcome to Nelson. It is my great privilege to work with Nelson City Council, Sister Cities New Zealand and their many partners to bring you the 2016 Sister Cities Conference.

We hope you will seize this opportunity to meet new people, make new connections, explore new partnerships and open yourself to new ideas. As Crusaders coach Todd Blackadder would say:

**T** ogether  
**E** veryone  
**A** chieves  
**M** ore

We know this to be true and invite you to join with us to celebrate the past, acknowledge the present & look to create exciting, sustainable possibilities for sister city/friendship/twinning & global connections in New Zealand and beyond.

Thank you for choosing to come to Nelson. We know the demands on your time are many & look forward to hosting you in this the place we are thankful to call home.

Lyndal McMeeking,  
Conference Coordinator  
2016 Sister Cities Conference - Nelson





**SISTER CITIES**

*Conference 2016*

Nelson, New Zealand



*"Connecting People – Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future"*