

Minutes of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee held on Wednesday 8 July, 2009 at the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, Springwood commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Christine Wenman, Junko Howard, Margaret Kennedy, Janne Bent, Petra Graham, Allan Graham, Chris Howard, Joyce Henderson, Colleen Kime, Trevor Hamilton, Marion Crossman, Nadia Ireland, Cllr Chris van der Kley

1. Welcome.

2. Apologies: Pat Ainslie, Alan Ainslie, Kerry Kime

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Janne Bent moved Minutes be accepted, seconded Petra Graham. Carried.

Colleen Kime advised that Mrs. K. Vincent won't be able to be part of the Junior Ambassador Program on 27 July.

Colleen Kime will bring in the photographs of the quilt to a meeting soon.

Colleen Kime asked about our commitment to the Leura Village Fair. It was confirmed that we were asked to run a couple of events only.

4. Correspondence:

4.1 Emails in and out

4.2 From BMCC. Letter to Mr. John Telford C/-BMCC. As he is not known to us, it was returned to sender.

4.3 Junior Ambassador Application from Damian Hodges

4.4. Junior Ambassador Application from Cheryl Gatt

4.5. Account to BMCC – Meat and disposable plates & cups for runners' dinner

4.6. Junior Ambassador Application from Jessie Palmer

4.7. Junior Ambassador Application from Michael

4.8. Junior Ambassador application from Seyeon Yu

4.9. Junior Ambassador Application from Jieon Yu

4.10. Junior Ambassador Application from Estelle Rust

4.11. Junior Ambassador Application from Paige McGovern

4.12. Junior Ambassador Application from Samm McBride

4.13. From Julie Bargaquast, in response to a letter to General Manager
– accounts relating to Council employees' Sanda visit

4.14. From Adam Searle, the Mayor, in response to our Report to Council. This was the Report we did and handed in in March. It was Tabled 16 June. The letter stated that 'it was resolved and endorsed unanimously that large vote of thanks for contribution to local community' to our committee.

Action Item: *Email to Julie to ask her what our Budget for this year.*

5. General Business

5.1 Woodford to Glenbrook Classic . Results: Mr Tenuhiko Tsuda, our Male runner, came 41st overall in race and 12th in his age category. Mrs Chisato Murakami, our Female runner, came 127th overall and 5th in her age category. Margaret Kennedy reported that Kerry Kime brought the runners from the airport to her home where they all had lunch with Rob and Ros Spilling. In the afternoon they did a trip with Janne to Euroka, Mt. Portal, and the Penrith Regatta Centre. Friday was a trip to Blackheath, sights of Katoomba and the Race Start at Woodford. Saturday was a trip to Faulconbridge Markets and then to Penrith shopping. Sunday was the race day. Monday was early start to Sydney sights, trip to Manly and dinner at Centre Point Tower. Margaret said she did not have all the receipts from Rob Spilling. She tabled her costs. Janne Bent tabled her account for \$25.59 for the 4th of July morning tea and

\$70 for Sanda runner's trip. Kerry Kime's account was tabled for \$62.50. (Junko mentioned with all the Sanda receipts we send in to Council, the don't fit directly into the accounting categories of the Blue Mountains City Council accounting system and are had to keep track of. Junko suggested it would be easier to keep track of if each transaction was under one heading. ---Janne, I think the conversation about how to claim the accounts took place only between you and me after the meeting. I did mention discrepancies and difficulty keeping track of 'how much was spent on what' under Financial Statement.) Discussion as to how we can compensate the host families more easily without having to keep every receipt. Motion put by Chris Howard that the family hosting the runners receive an amount of \$150 each to help subsidise the hosting of the runners. Seconded Colleen Kime. Carried. Chris van der Kley abstained from voting. Janne moved that her account and Kerry Kime's accounts be paid (parking, toll plus \$50 run to airport allowance). Junko Howard (I did not second it but I do not remember who seconded it.) seconded that Janne and Kerry's account be sent to Council for payment. Carried. Thanks Colleen and Kerry for their hospitality. Both runners had to be home quarantined for a week when they went back. Trevor to organise some publicity with Gazette.

Action Item: *Janne to draft Account to the Council authorising the Council to pay Margaret Kenney and Rob Spilling \$150 each for hosting the runners.*
Janne to prepare Accounts from K.Kime and herself to go to Council.

5.2 4th July Celebrations. We served donuts and coffee at the Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre. It was a low key event without a Flag raising as an Australian Flag was not available. Chris van der Kley suggested we contact our Federal Member of Parliament for an Australian Flag. We have a Japanese Flag. At the Council Chambers there is an American Flag that belongs to the Committee and Chris Wenman advised that she spoke with the General Manager Phil Pinyon at Glenbrook and Phil was happy for us to have it.

Action Item: *Write to the local Federal Member for an Australian Flag.*

Action Item: *Ask the Blue Mts City Council if they can locate the US flag and let us have it in due course.*

5.3. Junior Ambassador Program. The Blue Mountains Gazette reprinted our Advertisement in a place near the Council items, and there was no charge. Chris van der Kley will represent the Council on the Interview Panel and Nadia Ireland will represent the Committee. As Mrs. K. Vincent is unable to attend as Japanese speaker panel member, Marion Crossman suggested David Cranby of St. Johns Road, as a possible Japanese speaking person as a possible person or there may be someone else we can ask. If not, it may be that Nadia may step in as the Japanese speaker. Marion to write questions later this week. Nadia and Chris to do questions

5.4 Primary Exchange Program. Between Blue Mountains Grammar (BGS) and Sanda. It started in June. Grammar art work arrived in Japan last week. Japan is preparing to send their work to BGS.

5.5. Two Junior Ambassadors from Sanda. Sanda is interested in sending the same high school students later when the flu situation improves. Even though the official quarantine of students to stay at home has been lifted, families are still unsure about hosting children. Not until after winter is over may it be possible to find host families. Western Sydney has highest cases of swine flu at present. Discuss position again at next meeting.

5.6 Spring celebration (to replace Japanese Foundation Day). – Possibly with the Leura Village Fair.

(Approached by Michael Kelly and felt at we would enter into the spirit of the event.?)
We don't have manpower to do anything more than have a stall on the day.
Suggested that as the Leura Village Fair is based around the Garden festival, that we ask Sanda for some pictures of Sanda gardens. Motion by Marion Crossman seconded by Chirs Van der Kley that we ask Sanda for some photographs to put on our stall.

Action Item. *Junko to ask Sanda for pictures of some Sanda gardens.*

5.7 Possible SIA's visit to BM in 2009. No update for visit

5.8 Procedure/Manual for annual events. Chris Wenman suggested we talk about this before the Junior Ambassador interviews on 26th July at 12 noon at the Sports Club.

Action Item: *Janne to do reminder for 12 noon for lunch at the club to discuss calendar.*

5.9 General Business

Sanda's request for 20 paintings. The paintings have to be sent out in August.

Approach Faulconbridge and then Springwood Primary Schools.

Action Item: *Junko to approach Faulconbridge and/or Springwood Primary School*

Friendship Relationships. Colleen asked about a visit by Council employees to China in regard to organising a friendship sister city and that something has been signed. (We know about the East Timor Friendship Committee). (Some years ago) Colleen said some years ago when she was at a Sister Cities conference she was approached about a city in China and when she came back from the Conference she did a report and took it to Council. Chris van der Kley advised that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor went to Korea for the opening of a disonsour exhibition . The approaches from China were business, not social. Colleen to investigate further.

General Manager's visit to Flagstaff. Phil Pinyon had spoken with some Committee Members on 4 July and said he had exchanged gifts with Flagstaff and they took him to the Grand Canyon. His visit was with City Staff and he did not spend time with Sister City members.

6. Financial Statement.

The financial year ended with \$494.76 was left at 30th June. The account for the Runner's Jackets of \$111.92 has already been taken out. The \$129.10 for the welcoming dinner has also been paid, as has registration fee of \$80 for the runners shown as \$72.73. Discrepancies left total \$516.18. Junko reported that in the letter to the General Manager it had been pointed out that according 10.5 of our Constitution "no account shall be referred to Council for payment unless and until it has been authorised by a duly constituted meeting." Discussion that proper procedures had not been followed. There were items that should have come before the committee first. Need to make sure that everyone is aware what the process is. Clr Chris van der Kley to follow this up.

Action Item: *Give copies of letter to GM and reply by Julie to Chris Van der Kley.*

Financial Statement (Accounts) for Meetings; Junko concerned that because it takes 8 working days from the beginning of the month to get our monthly statement, that some months, we wont get statement in time.

Action Item: *Chris van der Kley to talk to Neil about when we can get our Statement.*

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

