

**Minutes of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee held at 26 Glenell Street, Blaxland on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 commencing at 6.45pm.**

**Present:** Chris Wenman, Junko Howard, Colleen Kime, Kerry Kime, Margaret Kennedy, Chris van der Kley, Petra Graham, Chris Howard, Joyce Henderson, Trevor Hamilton and Janne Bent

**Apologies:** Marion Crossman, Cr Fiona Creek, Pat Ainslie, Alan Ainslie. Colleen Kime advised that Pat and Alan Ainslie were in Scotland as Pat's mother had died.

**Action Item:** Send card to Pat and Alan Ainslie.

The Chair Chris Wenman welcomed Trevor Hamilton as a new member of our Committee.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Had been emailed and some copies handed out. Moved Janne Bent seconded Colleen Kime that Minutes be accepted. Carried.

**Business Arising:**

1. Colleen hand to Committee a copy of the July BMCC account we had not received.  
2. Colleen asked if we had heard from Wendy Dolan. Junko advised no. Colleen said she had called in at the Glenbrook Tourist Centre and they did have a copy of the names of all the runners going to Sanda if any of them wanted to call in to purchase something, they would get 20% discount. This applied to Katoomba Tourist Centre also. Do the O'Brien's know.

**Action Item:** Let Edward and Earl O'Brien know.

3. Kerry and Colleen advised that they had not received Kerry's \$500 cheque or Colleen's account from the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Party. Janne and Chris Wenman advised they had not been reimbursed yet either.

**Action Item:** Chase up payment of accounts.

**Correspondence:**

**5.1.** Email list (in / out)

**5.2.** Room booking form from Ms Elaine Mercier, Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, for 2009

**5.3.** Thank you letter from Mr Roger Bowen, former runner, for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary runners' dinner

**5.4.** Promotion letter from Robyn Wardle, Heavenly Silks, for her scarves

**5.5.** Thank you letter to Mr John Krook, the Vice President, Wood Turners, for the bowl from Tahlia House cherry tree

**5.6.** Thank you letter with \$50 check to Mr Bruce Smith, the President of Springwood United Football Club, for the use of club hall

**5.7.** Account claim to BMCC for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary runners' dinner

**5.8.** OZ Christmas photos to Ms Gina Plumpton in Sanda on request

Junko advised that she had just received an email from Sanda about the drawings that Winmalee Public School had sent over. Apparently 3 of them will be used in a local Calendar.

**Action Item:** Ask Sanda if we can give 4 copies of the Calendar – 1 each for the students and 1 for the school.

**Financial Report:**

Financial Report from Blue Mountains City Council showed balance of \$5,921.41. Increased from last month as there was a refund of 2 air fares taken out of this year's money which should have been taken out of previous years balance.

**General Business:**

1. Gift to Sanda \$300.

Discussion by the Committee members over the gift the Blue Mts City Council sent over with the 2 Council employees who went to Sanda. Individuals on visits to Sanda don't usually take official presents and it has not been our policy that gifts be purchased out of Sister City funds. The only presents that are exchanged are on official occasions when Mayors visit. We feel the cost of \$300 is an excessive amount especially when no contact was made with any members of the Committee.

**Action Item:** Hold over to next meeting to talk to Julie about.

Communication methods: email, phone, fax.

Junko & Chris Howard have been having some communication with the IT staff at the Council with regard to deciding what is the best method of communication in this day and age ie NextG with Telstra instead of a landline which costs \$54.40 per month. . Council is in agreement but they have been trying to get some costing details. Chris van der Kley suggested they speak with Warwick Perdy at Council. Colleen Kime moved a motion that Chris Wenman and Junko and Chris Howard to follow up and the Committee is happy to leave the decision to them. Seconded Janne Bent. Carried

**Action Item:** Chris Wenman, Junko & Chris Howard to follow up communication access to the Howard home.

**Japanese Foundation Day**

This is 11<sup>th</sup> February (our next meeting day). Discussion that it happens early in the year usually before our first meeting of the year and hence it is not celebrated much by the Committee. Junko advised that it is not such a big day in Japan. Junko to think about the best day for the Committee to celebrate the Japanese culture and bring to next meeting.

**Action Item:** Junko to let Committee know a date that is celebrated in Japan.

**Procedures/Manual**

Janne spoke about having down on paper some of the things the Committee does, timing etc.

**Action Item:** Janne to bring details to next meeting.

**Japanese Essay Competition**

Chris Howard spoke of a young student from Penrith High School who won an essay competition recently. He said anyone can use this as a sample essay. Chris had copies for Committee members to read.

**Action Item:** Send letter of congratulations to student

**Gift from Sanda**

Chris van der Kley brought with him to the meeting a pottery vase/urn which stood 40 to 50 cm tall which was a gift from Sanda to the Blue Mts City Council for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister Cities between Blue Mts and Sanda.

**Action Item:** Letter to our Mayor asking him to thank Sanda very much for the gift .

The Chair wished Kerry Kime and Margaret Kennedy all the best for their trip to Sanda and to have a good time.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.