

**Minutes of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee held on Wednesday 12 August, 2009 at the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, Springwood commencing at 7.35 pm**

**Present:** Christine Wenman, Junko Howard, Margaret Kennedy, Janne Bent, Petra Graham, Allan Graham, Chris Howard, Nadia Ireland

**1. Welcome.**

**2. Apologies:** Pat Ainslie, Alan Ainslie, Colleen Kime, Kerry Kime, Joyce Henderson, Chris van der Kley, Marion Crossman, Trevor Hamilton

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Janne Bent moved Minutes be accepted, seconded Margaret Kennedy. Carried.

**4. Correspondence:**

**4.1** Emails in and out

**4.2** From Sister Cities Australia Incorporated:

- Tax Invoice for Membership Subscription (1.7.2009-30.6.2010)
- Formerly Australian Sister Cities Association (ASCA) changed its name,

following confirmation at the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

**4.3** From Chris van der Kley:

- An email printout regarding a visit by Wu Yi Shan City (China) Delegates.
- Chris van der Kley advised there was a proposal that there be World Heritage Friendship between Blue Mountains City Council and Wu Yi Shan City. Some delegates came here from China and had a meeting with the Council about friendship exchange. Chris does not know what happened after that.

**4.4** 27<sup>th</sup> July: To Julie Bargaenquast. Accounts for

- \$30: Internet expense
- \$500: Sister Cities Australia Membership Subscription
- \$300: Two host families for the Sanda runners
- \$132.50: Two airport runs, toll & parking expenses for the Sanda runners
- \$25.60: American Independence Day Celebration at Glenbrook Visitor

Information Centre

**4.5** 27<sup>th</sup> July: To Edward Harris, Chairman, Springwood Sports Club.

- Thank-you letter for the use of the Board Room.

**4.6** From Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney

- Japan Report Vol. 44 No.2 Winter 2009

**4.7** From Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Co-operative Ltd.

- Guidelines for the use of the SNCC premises.

**5. Business Arising**

**5.1** Wu Yi Shan City, mentioned in 4.3

**Updates of the action items from July**

- Emailed Julie Bargaenquest, who confirmed we received \$11,400.
- All accounts sent to Council – no cheques received as yet.
- Australian Flag. Letter has gone to Bob Debus – no reply yet.
- Locate the US Flag. Colleen told Junko where it might be. Junko to ask Julie.
- Gardens Posters of Sanda for a stall at the Leura Village Fair. – Sanda has responded that none available. Sanda suggested enlarged photos of local sceneries. Request six to ten A3 size or larger photos.
- Janne sent out a reminder about lunch at Sports Club before the Junior Ambassador Interviews

- Junko approached Faulconbridge Primary School, who agreed to supply 20 paintings.

*Two Actions items – Junko to email Julie about the US Flag and to request Sanda for enlarged photos*

## **6. General Business**

**6.1 Woodford Glenbrook Classic.** A great photo, Trevor Hamilton sent in, of our two runners with the hosts, was in BM Gazette.

**6.2 Junior Ambassador Program.** Nadia expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be on the interview panel. It was very good to have Mrs. Noriko Konomi on the panel. Nadia was really pleased with the selected student, Jessica Palmer, who was very enthusiastic, and said she will be a good representative for us. Her Japanese is very good. She is from Winmalee High School. She also mentioned Jessica's family hosted a student from Sanda for one year. Nadia said facilities at the Sports Club were good, and everyone who was there agreed. Nadia suggested we use the same questions next year. Junko reported we are still waiting for Julie to book refundable tickets for the flights. Sanda has advised Swine flu still spreading. It may become an issue. All the applicants were notified of the result. Jessica had been requested to attend our September and November meeting. Should a Junior Ambassador meet the Mayor? – Committee agreed no. Petra moved we purchase jacket for Jessica, seconded Janne Bent, carried. Janne will get a jacket from Glenbrook VIC. Briefing for Jessica will be at our next meeting.

*Action Item – Junko to let Janne know the phone number of Jessica's mother to ascertain her size, and purchase a jacket.*

*Action Item – Committee to discuss for next year, that an applicant should be a school student or not.*

### **6.3 Ambassadors from Sanda**

*Action Item – Janne to ask Marion the prospect for finding host families from Winmalee High School community. If they have difficulties, should ask St, Columba's High School community. The next possible timing for inviting the Junior Ambassadors from Sanda will be between 19<sup>th</sup> of October and mid December. If not, next February or March.*

### **6.4 Primary art work to Sanda**

It was decided that Faulconbridge Public School to participate this year. Junko will collect the art work on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

### **6.5 Primary Exchange program**

Between Blue Mountains Grammar School & Akashia-dai Elementary School in Sanda. The first exchange of art work: BMGS sent to Sanda in June followed by Sanda sent to BNGS in July with photos of a display of BMGS's work in Akashia-dai Elementary School.

### **6.6 Spring celebration with the Leura Village Fair. 10/11 Oct.**

There was an article in Gazette by Michael Kelly.

Quilts. Ask Colleen where the quilt is.

Email from Michael Kelly advising he has had to cancel Japanese entertainments due to being unable to organise any funding from corporate sponsors this year. Michael advised he was unable to obtain any Japanese food outlets or Japanese stalls since no interest from the Japanese community that he tried.

Michael advised that he has some Japanese posters, maps and brochures and will get them to us. He inquired, due to the weight, if he could drop them at BMCC office for us.

**Action Item** – Junko to inquire if it is OK with BMCC.

Julie forwarded the email from Michael to the Mayor. Our Mayor sent an invitation to the Japanese Ambassador. Michael now wants the invitation to be withdrawn. Junko said she was concerned about the Ambassador coming from Canberra and now the initially planned Japanese events not going ahead. The Ambassador should be notified that our Japanese theme has been diminished. Committee agreed that the Mayor needs to know about our concerns and the embarrassment it might cause the city.

#### **6.7 SIA's visit in October.**

Tentative plan is to stay at a hotel from Friday night to Monday morning (9 to 12 October). They would like to do some home visits, visit Leura Gardens Festival, have an itinerary planned by us and bus transport within Blue Mts supplied by BMCC.

**Action Item** – *contact Julie at Council to ask her about bus for free or what would be the cost for about 20 people, and driver requirements. (Check with Colleen to see if she has one).*

#### **6.8 Procedure/Manual for annual events.**

Chris W, Janne, Margaret and Junko had a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July, on the interview day of the Junior Ambassador, and worked on a draft procedure manual which has now been sent out to all members.

Should we keep our meetings on the second Wednesday as financial statement not being available by some second Wednesdays?

An agenda item for August meeting is to do with the selection of the runners to go to Sanda in December. Sanda had requested for us to send one male and one female runner. Sanda International Masters Marathon is on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Suggested panel to select runners are: Margaret Kennedy, Rob Spilling and John Trotter.

**Action Item** – *Janne to email advert to Gazette with closing date, the first Friday in Sept.*

### **7. Financial Statement**

We received a pre-finalised account on the 7<sup>th</sup> working day.

It was with incorrect elements and with no expenditure as follow:

Excess of expenditure over income: \$0.00

Budget allocation for year: \$11,400

Balance of funds available from 30<sup>th</sup> June “2008: \$494.76”

Balance available at 30<sup>th</sup> of June “2009: \$11,894.76”

Junko awaiting for a “final version” of the July Statement.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm