

**ITEM NO:** S1

**SUBJECT:** BLUE MOUNTAINS SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

**FILE NOS:** C00299, C00576

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**Recommendations:**

1. *That the Council wish Ben Artup and Melinda Vernon every success in the Sanda City International Masters Half Marathon.*
  2. *That the Council thank Marian Crossman, Chairperson of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee, for her report for 2006 and that it be received.*
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**Minute by Mayor:**

**1. Presentation to Participants in Sanda City International Masters Half Marathon.**

It is my great pleasure to advise the Council that we have present with us this evening, Ben Artup (Warrimoo) and Melinda Vernon (Springwood) who have been chosen to represent the Blue Mountains as runners in the Sanda City International Masters Half Marathon which will be held in Sanda City, Japan in December 2006. We extend a very warm welcome to them.

On behalf of the Council I would like to present Ben and Melinda with Blue Mountains tracksuits and to wish them every success in the forthcoming Marathon.

**2. Chairperson's Report 2006**

Marian Crossman, Chairperson of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee has kindly submitted a report on the various projects and activities of the Committee. This report is attached for your information.

**Attachment 1****BLUE MOUNTAINS SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE****ANNUAL REPORT BY MARIAN CROSSMAN – CHAIRPERSON (2006)**

Once again the Community Sister Cities Committee has had a very successful year, with new and yearly activities continuing.

In December 2005 we selected two runners – Rodger Bowen and Dearne Fulcher to represent the Blue Mountains City Council in the Sanda Half Marathon. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year members of our community have been invited to participate. In June our Committee hosted a male and female runner from Sanda who competed in the Woodford to Glenbrook Classic.

We currently have a teacher – Ms. Gina Plumpton teaching in Sanda with the Sanda Board of Education. This is an exchange that has been ongoing for 13 years.

Once again a very successful Japanese National Day was held at Echo Point with the Japanese Consul-General in attendance. The National Flags were raised and National Anthems of both countries sung. The assembled guests were then entertained by a group of ladies performing traditional Japanese Dances.

This year was the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sister Cities relationship with Flagstaff, Arizona, U.S.A. The 4<sup>th</sup> July raising of the flag was held at Glenbrook Park, with special guest Mayor Jim Angel, USAF and RAAF personnel from Glenbrook Command Base in attendance.

We are ever grateful to the Schools who are always willing to participate in our programs. This year the Committee sent drawings and paintings to Sanda from the Hazelbrook Primary School for the “Sanda Children’s Week Display” and St. Thomas School Springwood had student representatives during School Holidays to help at the raising of the flag on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The Committee would like to congratulate Glenbrook Public School for setting up a Sister School relationship.

This year we held our inaugural Japanese Speech Competition with St. Columbus student Meredith Miller winning the trip to Sanda, Japan for two weeks. In July the Committee hosted two students from Sanda who were winners of an English Speaking Competition organised by the Sanda International Association.

This year’s major project is a Patchwork Exchange. This has been an ongoing exchange since a group of ladies from Petal Davis “Patching with Petal” visited Sanda for the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary taking with them quilts for a display. In March this year “Just Country Quilts” from Sanda sent three Award Winning Quilts for the St. Thomas School Quilt Show. In return Petal’s Group sent five quilts back to Sanda for their Annual Display. Petal’s Group and the Sanda Patchwork Group have also exchanged twelve patchwork squares.

**Attachment 1**

These squares are being assembled at the moment and, on completion, will be presented to the Blue Mountains City Council. The Committee has submitted this project in the 2006 ASCA Awards Competition. The winner will be announced on 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Conference being held in Devonport, Tasmania.

Special mention should be given to Mrs. Colleen Kime who has been a member of the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee for sixteen years. Colleen has been invited by the ASCA Committee to be a Judge for their Annual ASCA Awards.

The Committee this year saw the resignation of Mr. Mark Greenhill and the appointment of new member Janne Bent. As Chairperson I would like to thank all Committee members for their support and commitment to the Sister Cities programs and its belief in what it stands for:

*“Cultural exchange, friendship and understanding of each others culture”.*

The Committee would like to thank the Blue Mountains City Council, BMTA, Mayor Jim Angel and especially his Secretary Karen Ives for her continued and invaluable support. Also Councillor Representatives Chris Van der Kley and Alison McLaren. With the co-operation of all these people it makes the work of the Sister Cities Committee much easier.

**MOTION:** The Committee accepts the endorsement of three new members to the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee:

Mr. Chris Howard, Mrs. Junko Howard and Mr. John Webb.

New Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting on 8th November 2006:

Chairperson:	Marian Crossman
Secretary:	Colleen Kime
Vice-Chairperson:	Chris Wenman
Members:	Kerry Kime, Pat Ainslie, Alan Ainslie, Petra Graham Rosie Phillips, Joyce Henderson, Janne Bent