

Subject: LMM 28/11/2023 - ACKNOWLEDGING MAYOR SHINOZAKI & THE UBE SISTER CITY DELEGATION VISIT TO NEWCASTLE

MOTION:

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges our long, rich and mutually beneficial Sister City relationship with Ube City, Japan, which is steeped in history and culture, and built upon our port harbour cities' shared industrial backgrounds;
2. Notes that the Sister City Agreement was signed on 21 November 1980 between Lord Mayor Joy Cummings and Mayor Hideo Futatsugi and that this relationship has cultivated strong connections in education, youth exchange, economics, sport and art between our two cities;
3. Acknowledges that we were honoured to welcome Mayor Keiji Shinozaki, his fellow Ube City Councillors and members of the Ube-Newcastle Sister City Friendship Society to our City between Monday, 20 November to Wednesday, 23 November 2023; to mark both the 43rd Anniversary and acknowledge the important 40th Anniversary our Sister City relationship, which took place during the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Thanks Ube City for re-confirming their commitment to our Sister City relationship during their recent visit and reaffirms the profound impact of our past interactions and the important of continued exchange across diverse fields for the mutual growth of our cities rooted in mutual trust and cooperation.

BACKGROUND:

City of Newcastle celebrates Japanese Sister City agreement

22 Nov 2023

The four-decade relationship between City of Newcastle (CN) and its Sister City in Japan has been commemorated in person thanks to the visit of a delegation from Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the milestone being marked in 2020, making it almost 43 years to the day since Newcastle's first female Lord Mayor, the late Joy Cummings, joined the Mayor of Ube to sign the agreement.

Current Ube Mayor Keiji Shinozaki, his fellow councillors and members of the Ube-Newcastle Sister City Friendship Society were greeted by Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Councillor Elizabeth Adamczyk, Councillor Margaret Wood and Councillor Katrina Wark at Blackbutt Reserve, where a tree was planted to commemorate the 40th anniversary before the Japanese delegation had the chance to meet some local wildlife.

Cr Nelmes said the relationship between the two cities has delivered countless benefits over the years.

"Despite being 7,700 kilometres apart, Newcastle and Ube have developed strong connections in education, youth exchange, economics, sport and art, with Newcastle Art Gallery holding one of the largest collections of Sodeisha ceramics outside Japan," Cr Nelmes said.

"Local high schools such as Newcastle, Merewether, Kotara and Wallsend have participated in annual student exchanges with Ube, which provide an immersive cultural experience, while the University of Newcastle's Language Centre embraces Japanese language, art and culture.



"There's an event called the Newcastle Fair in Ube, where visitors can experience the cultural aspects of Newcastle. In 2019, Ube City gifted the winners of the Japanese Speech Contest held in Newcastle a trip to attend this fair.

"I'm proud to represent City of Newcastle and continue the legacy of Joy Cummings, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Sister City link, believing the port harbour cities with similar populations and industrial backgrounds in coal exports and steel manufacturing had much in common."

A symbolic exchange of gifts took place 43 years ago with City of Newcastle presenting Ube officials with an inscribed plaque bearing the city's coat of arms, while Ube provided Newcastle with a Kabuto (Samurai Helmet).

That tradition continued when Mayor Shinozaki and the Japanese delegation attended a welcome reception and dinner on Monday at City Hall, where more gifts were exchanged and a treaty was signed to recommit the Sister City relationship.

The tour of Newcastle continued on Tuesday with the Ube City officials visiting the CSIRO Energy Centre at Mayfield West, the Port of Newcastle, Nihon University's Newcastle Campus and the Anzac Memorial Walk.

CN currently has three other adopted Sister City relationships including the Californian city of Arcadia, the English city of Newcastle upon Tyne, and the central western NSW town of Dubbo.

The relationships are designed to promote and encourage friendship and cooperation between local governments, business leaders and the wider community, in addition to facilitating cultural exchange programs and economic development.

City of Newcastle celebrates 40th Sister City anniversary with Ube, Japan

20 Nov 2020

City of Newcastle honoured a relationship steeped in history and culture on Thursday ahead of the 40th anniversary of the Sister City declaration between Newcastle and Ube, Japan.

On 21 November 1980, the City's first female Lord Mayor, the late Joy Cummings, turned a new page in history as she joined the Mayor of Ube, the late Mr Hideo Futatsugi, to sign the Sister City agreement.



Built upon the burgeoning port harbour cities' shared industrial backgrounds in coal exports and steel manufacturing, the declaration was and remains today a sign of goodwill, mutual understanding and friendship.

Over the decades, Newcastle and Ube have developed strong connections in education, youth exchange, economics, sport and art, which were celebrated when the City hosted Consul-General Mr Kiya Masahiko and Consul in Charge of General Affairs and Information and Culture, Mr Shinichi Murata on a diplomatic visit to Newcastle.

Mr Masahiko and Mr Murata were presented with a commemorative book, titled *Sister Cities Newcastle and Ube: celebrating 40 years*, produced by the City to mark the auspicious occasion.

The Consuls also received a demonstration of a curated, interactive digital story-wall exhibition showcasing the Sister City history at the City Administration Centre's Digital Library.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes recognised the ongoing significance of this mutually beneficial relationship as both Newcastle and Ube continue to undergo growth and transformation.

“It was Lord Mayor Joy Cummings’ vision, when the declaration was signed, for our two great cities to enjoy lasting friendship, good health and prosperity, and I am proud to say our Sister City ties remain as strong as ever,” Cr Nelmes said.



Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes presents the commemorative book to the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Kiya Masahiko, in front of the digital story-wall exhibition at the City's Digital Library.

“While we are living through an unprecedented time due to the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic, it is but another chapter in the history book of our Sister City relationship, as we rise together to overcome adversity as we have done in the past.

“City of Newcastle congratulates Ube City on achieving this joint milestone and looks forward to the continuation of our cities’ relationship over the years to come.”

Sister Cities Newcastle and Ube: celebrating 40 years is available for loan from Newcastle Libraries. A digital version is accessible via the website.



Confirmation of Sister City Exchange
between the City of Newcastle and Ube City

The City of Newcastle and Ube City solidified a sister city relationship on November 21, 1980. Since then, a rich exchange spanning across various fields such as education, culture, sports, and the economy has consistently deepened.

As we navigate through the post-COVID era, we aspire to maintain and broaden these exchanges into new formats.

Acknowledging the profound impact of our past interactions, we reaffirm that the benefits derived from our educational, cultural, sports, and other exchanges, along with the human friendships forged between our two cities, are the bedrock of our sister city relationship.

Believing in the importance of continued exchange across diverse fields for the mutual growth of our cities, we, therefore, agree to further engage in interactions focusing on education, culture, sports, and decarbonization. These commitments are rooted in mutual trust and cooperation.

The mayors of both cities will each sign two copies of this Confirmation, one in English and one in Japanese. Each city will retain one copy of the signed Confirmation. Both versions hold equal validity and are considered original documents.

20th November, 2023

Nuatali Nelmes
The Lord Mayor
City of Newcastle

SHINOZAKI Keiji
The Mayor
Ube City



宇部市及びニューカッスル市の
姉妹都市交流に関する確認書

宇部市とニューカッスル市は、1980年11月21日に姉妹都市を提携し、教育、文化、スポーツ、経済等幅広い分野において、交流を深めてきた。

これまでの交流に加え、アフターコロナの時代における新しい形の交流を追求し、拡大していくことを希望する。

そして、これまでの教育、文化、スポーツ等に関する交流及び人的友好関係がもたらした恩恵が、両市の姉妹都市交流の根底にあることをここに確認する。

両都市のさらなる発展には、様々な分野での姉妹都市としての交流が重要であることから、相互の信頼と協力の下、教育、文化、スポーツ、脱炭素等の分野における交流に取り組むことを確認し、合意した。

両市長が、本確認書2部に日本語・英語で署名し、1部ずつ両市が保管する。それぞれの確認書は同価値の原本とする。

2023年11月20日

宇部市長
篠崎 圭二

ニューカッスル市長
又アタリ・ネルムス