



バン  
バリ  
ー  
世  
田  
谷

Sister cities of  
**Bunbury+**  
**Setagaya**

Western Australia + Japan

Celebrating friendship since  
1992 through student, sporting,  
arts, music and cultural  
exchange



## FOREWORD

## BUNBURY SETAGAYA SISTER CITIES

> Pauline Vukelic

A couple of people in Bunbury, who held the dream of establishing a sister city relationship with a city in Japan, met with the South West Development Commission in about 1990 to float the idea.

Some time later a delegation from Setagaya visited Western Australia to begin the search for a potential sister city and were recommended to visit Bunbury.

The Setagaya Mayor delighted in the natural environs of Bunbury which formed a stark contrast to urban Setagaya, one of the 23 wards in the Tokyo metropolis, so Bunbury was invited to be Setagaya's sister city.

The Sister Cities movement was created by US President Dwight D Eisenhower in 1948 with the aim of building relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, creating lifelong friendships that provide prosperity and peace through person-to-person "citizen diplomacy."

Thanks to this vision and the enthusiasm and dedication of many people since 1992, more than twenty years later, thousands and thousands of people in Bunbury and Setagaya have been touched by the student, sport, dance and other exchanges that have occurred.

Images of one mayor savouring an ice-cream as he walked the waterfront, another mayor playing jump rope with school children, dozens of children planting flowering plum trees, performing at schools and civic receptions, miming to communicate, being thrilled at the sight of kangaroos, squealing with delight (and fear!) at Tokyo Disneyland..... thousands of images and memories, all real for everyone who experienced the myriad aspects of the sister city experience.

May the next two decades of Bunbury and Setagaya's sister city relationship herald more understanding, shared experiences, exchanges of ideas and deepened understanding.

**National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry:**

Title: Sister cities of Bunbury + Setagaya Celebrating friendship since 1992 through student, sporting, arts, music and cultural exchange

ISBN: 978-0-646-92734-3

Subjects: Non-Fiction, Travel, Personal History

Authors/Contributors: Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee past and present members, South West Development Commission, Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industries, City of Bunbury and City of Setagaya officers, officials, councillors and delegates Photos by various City of Bunbury officers, City of Setagaya officers, members of Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee

Other: Cover & book design by Gumption, Busselton  
Cover logo design by Cannonball Productions, Dunsborough  
Printed by Discus on Demand, West Leederville

Copy right © Bunbury- Setagaya Sister Cities Committee and City of Bunbury 2014

ISBN 978-0-646-92734-3



9 780646 927343 >



世田谷  
バンバリー  
Sister cities of  
**Bunbury+  
Setagaya**  
Western Australia + Japan

## 20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS 1992 - 2012

世田谷  
バンバリー

### Messages

- 2 Gary Brennan  
Mayor of Bunbury
- 2 Nobuto Hosaka  
Mayor of Setagaya,
- 3 Hon. Colin Barnett MLA  
Premier of Western Australia
- 4 Dr E C Manea  
former Mayor of Bunbury
- 4 Koichi Funayama  
Consul-General of Japan in  
Perth
- 5 John Castrilli, MLA  
former Mayor of Bunbury
- 5 David Smith  
former Mayor of Bunbury

### Outgoing Student Exchange

- 7 The Early Years
- 9 The Middle Years
- 11 Recent Visits
- 11 Life Changing Experience
- 12 An Adventure Never  
Forgotten

### Incoming Student Exchange

- 15 The Early Years
- 17 Tour Leader's Perspective

### Culture Shared

- 18 Photographic  
Competition
- 20 Marathon Runners  
Exchange
- 21 Multicultural Night  
Under the Stars
- 22 Simcoa Teien  
Japanese Garden
- 23 Flowering Plum Trees
- 24 Wagner Choral Group
- 24 International  
Quilt Challenge
- 24 Croquet Visit
- 25 Basketball Visit
- 26 Dragon Boating
- 27 Eisteddfod Gala  
Concert, 1993
- 29 Top Jazz Ballet visits  
Setagaya, 2000
- 30 Inseki Project
- 30 Mikoshi
- 31 Setagaya Citizen Visits
- 32 BCCI Delegation
- 33 Flower Designers' Club  
of Bunbury

- 35 Christmas Lantern  
Festival

### Community Choir

- 36 Pauline A Vukelic
- 37 Dean Lomax

### Anniversary Celebrations

- 39 1993 - The First Delegation  
Visits Setagaya
- 41 1997 - 5th Anniversary  
Celebrations
- 43 2002 - 10th Anniversary  
Celebrations
- 45 2007 - 15th Anniversary  
Celebrations
- 47 2012 - 20th Anniversary  
Celebrations
- 49 Chronological History





## Gary Brennan

MAYOR OF BUNBURY  
2013

The Sister City Relationship between Bunbury and Setagaya was consolidated and strengthened by the 20th Anniversary Celebrations held in 2012 in both cities.

The relationship is a very important one, which hosts cultural and sporting exchanges between representatives from Bunbury and Setagaya including the student exchanges, photographic competitions and exhibitions, and marathon runner visits. It promotes international understanding, peace and goodwill between Japan and Australia.

Lifelong friendships have resulted from this relationship and both cities and countries have become important trading partners.

My aspiration for Bunbury is to be recognised as the most progressive regional City in WA and one of the most progressive regional cities within our great nation. Projects associated with the Sister City Relationship further enhance Bunbury's increasing reputation as a vibrant and creative city in which to live and invest.

On behalf of the City of Bunbury I express our appreciation to all who have been involved in the relationship since its inception. I look forward to being involved in the relationship and seeing it continue to grow and prosper.



## Nobuto Hosaka

MAYOR OF SETAGAYA  
2011 to Current Day

My visit to the beautiful city of Bunbury in October 2012 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sister City Agreement between our two cities has become a heart warming memory I will never forget.

The city of Bunbury is a beautiful place by the magnificent Indian Ocean blessed with an amazing natural scenery which shows us the many attractive aspects that our city of Setagaya does not have. I was also deeply impressed that all the citizens, including the wild dolphins we met, gave us a heart-warming welcome!

Although it was a short visit, I can still clearly remember the wonderful landscape of the town and the gentle smiles of your mayor and his wife, the members of the city council, everyone involved in the Sister Cities Committee and all the people we met.

It would make me happy if the proposed Friendship Garden in the Queens Garden precinct is a reminder of Setagaya to those who have visited Setagaya and those who will in the future.

I am sure our sister city exchange programs are meaningful, because through them our citizens can learn about various cultures and lifestyles beyond each country's borders and grow in mutual understanding of each others' cultural difference.

Through the publication of this book I hope the friendly ties between our two cities will continue forever.



**Hon Colin Barnett MLA**  
 PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
 Minister For State Development; Science  
 September 2008 to current day



Founded on the iron ore trade in the 1960s, Western Australia's relationship with Japan continues to develop and prosper.

Our Sister State relationship with Hyogo Prefecture reflects the historical importance of those trading ties. Established in 1981, Western Australia's Sister State relationship with Hyogo arose from well-established business connections between Western Australia's iron ore industry and Hyogo-based Kobe Steel and Nippon Steel. In 1989, a Government of Western Australia office was established in Kobe to support the Sister State relationship. Similarly, the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre was established in Western Australia in 1992.

Under the Sister State relationship, our cooperation has diversified beyond economic ties. In 2011, the milestone 30th anniversary of the Sister State relationship provided an opportunity to reflect on and reinforce our special people-to-people links.

Recent examples include the Western Australia-Hyogo Banshu Fashion Textile Program, which aims to build links between the State's growing fashion industry and Hyogo's renowned Banshu textile industry; a marathon exchange program to enable two runners from each region to compete in the Kobe and Perth marathons; and the Hyogo Friendship Garden on the grounds of Dumas House, West Perth which was gifted to the people of Western Australia by Hyogo.

These activities highlight the multifaceted nature of our friendship, and a commitment by both governments to the close and longstanding relationship. It is pleasing to note Sister City collaborations such as the Bunbury-Setagaya friendship, which are testament to the increasingly multi-layered ties between Western Australia and Japan, and essential in encouraging mutual understanding at the grass roots level.



## Dr E C Manea

FORMER MAYOR OF BUNBURY  
1966 – 1972, 1988 - 1997

In 1991 as Mayor of Bunbury I received a deputation from the City of Setagaya who presented a proposal from Mayor of Setagaya, Keiji Ohba, that the City of Bunbury become a sister city to the City of Setagaya in Tokyo, Japan.

They already had sister city relationships with Döbling in Vienna and Winnipeg in Canada and wished to extend to Australia. Mayor Ohba essentially felt the presence of sister cities in the world was a substantial contributor to world peace.

After Council's decision to proceed, former Deputy Mayor Graham Bricknell, Mike Barrett of the South West Development Commission and I travelled to Japan in October 1992 to sign the sister city agreement.

The agreement was signed in the City of Setagaya Assembly chambers in November and marked by a parade of flags and exchange of gifts.

During our visit, Graham Bricknell was delighted to be invited to conduct school bands and orchestras.

We also visited an aged care day centre where elderly citizens fraternise, played games, argued and enjoyed days together.

We were very impressed with Mayor Ohba and his vision of world peace and working together. We sincerely hope it continues.

## Koichi Funayama

CONSUL-GENERAL OF JAPAN  
IN PERTH  
2014

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on 22 years of the Bunbury-Setagaya sister city friendship. I am greatly encouraged by the depth of friendship between the two communities.

I believe that citizen diplomacy is one of the keys to the development and maintenance of peace in an increasingly inter-dependant world, as President Dwight Eisenhower foresaw some time ago. In this sense, the promotion of international goodwill at a grassroots level, such as the mutual visits by citizens and school exchanges, provides the ideal opportunity for both cities, for fostering cross-cultural understanding and creating new dynamics in the relationship. I am particularly glad to know that many students in Bunbury study Japanese language, which is a clear sign of their strong interest in Japanese culture, undoubtedly strengthened by the Bunbury-Setagaya friendship.

I am truly grateful to all the people who have worked hard and will continue to do so for the Bunbury-Setagaya friendship, and my special thanks go to the City of Bunbury, its community members and the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee for their continued support to strengthen the bonds of friendship between us. I am confident that over the coming years this friendship will grow further and benefit both; local communities and our two countries.



## John Castrilli, MLA

FORMER MAYOR OF BUNBURY  
1997 – 2005

Over the years I have witnessed the growth of our Sister City relationship through a better understanding of our two cultures. We have welcomed many delegations to Bunbury and have tried to immerse our guests into our lifestyle, expose them to our different foods and music, and showcase our community services and facilities.

I remember fondly, Mayor Ohba arriving at the Council Chambers in a horse drawn carriage to celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the signing of our Reaffirmation of our relationship. It was my extreme pleasure to award Mayor Ohba an Honorary Citizenship of the City of Bunbury. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we joyfully greeted people we had met in previous years, welcoming them back as true friends.

I have warm memories of visiting an elementary school in Setagaya and sharing lunch with the children, a photo of which still has pride of place in my office. One of my proudest moments was being awarded Honorary Citizenship of the City of Setagaya and also having the opportunity to speak in the Japanese Parliament.

The seed of friendship has been planted, and with continued nurturing, I believe will continue to flourish.



## David Smith

FORMER MAYOR OF BUNBURY  
2005 – 2013

The Bunbury Setagaya Sister City Relationship has been consolidated and strengthened by the mutual celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012.

The hospitality extended by Setagaya to the Bunbury delegation was very much appreciated and made it an experience that each of us will long remember. Part of that experience was seeing the strong personal friendships that have developed over the years. More importantly it confirmed the very strong commitment of both cities to the continuance of the relationship to further develop a mutual understanding of each others culture, people and history, and through that to recognise and value the things we have in common, and the contribution we can make to world peace and international co-operation.

This was further enhanced by the fact that both the Mayor of Setagaya, Nobuto Hosaka and his wife, Nobuko, and the Chairperson of the Assembly, Shinichi Hatakeyama, came to Bunbury with the Setagaya delegation, which helped to make us real friends at a personal and city level.

I will always carry in my heart a deep gratitude to all those that have worked for and within the relationship since its inception, and the happiness and warmth that settles on me whenever Setagaya and its relationship with Bunbury is spoken of.



"Homestay proved to be one of the highlights..."





# OUTGOING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## The Early Years

› Pauline Vukelic

In 1995, led by Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee member Pauline Vukelic and Bunbury Catholic College teacher Wendy Moore, a group of 10 high school students from Bunbury Catholic college, Newton Moore and Collie Senior High Schools visited Setagaya for the inaugural exchange program. After the trip it was decided to implement the exchange program at a primary school level.

The 1995 high school group experienced a meeting with Setagaya Mayor Keiji Ohba, attended schools, kicked a football with Setagaya City staff amongst the outdoor sculptures at the world class Setagaya Art Museum, had a fabulous day of thrills and spills at Tokyo Disneyland with the highlight being two nights of home stay with Setagaya host families. Tears of farewell from host families ended the very first visit by Bunbury students to Setagaya. However, temples and exquisite Japanese gardens on the two-day visit to Kyoto could not win over some of the Bunbury students who hankered for familiar food, language & environs! Nevertheless, as for the millions of people who have visited the Hiroshima Peace Park, students were variously moved, shocked, and incredulous at the museum exhibitions. This was balanced by the tranquility of the Peace Park gardens.

They were however, further saddened by the Childrens Peace Memorial at which thousands of clusters of one thousand cranes strung together, are laid each year to commemorate the children of the world, innocent victims of war and conflict. The story of Sadako, a radiation victim of the Hiroshima atomic bombing on August 6th 1945, believed that if she made one thousand folded paper (“origami”) cranes that she would be cured of leukemia (known locally as atomic bomb disease). Due to the paper scarcity she used medical wrappers, gift paper and scraps. Sadly she died aged 12, having made 644 cranes. Friends and family completed the one thousand cranes string which was buried with her. The thousand paper crane strings now symbolize the universal quest for peace in the world.

For the outgoing 1996 Setagaya exchange, schools were invited to nominate one student per school and a total of nine Bunbury students visited Setagaya between October 1st and 12th. Tour leader Tomoe Kita, a Japanese teacher residing in Bunbury was assisted by parent Peta Power and Acting Deputy Principal of Australind Primary School Carol Lamond.



Each tour was well planned with the groups meeting regularly in the lead up to the trip, learning some basic Japanese language, cultural etiquette and practising a musical number that was performed for dignitaries and the schools visited whilst in Setagaya.



# OUTGOING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## The Middle Years

› Sharon Lomax

The Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Exchange program has given students, parents and community groups an opportunity to experience a unique culture, develop friendships and create lifelong memories.

I was the Tour Leader of the Student Exchange Program in 1998, 1999 and 2001. Each year, I witnessed a group of students grow as they overcame challenges, faced fears and forged friendships.

Each tour was well planned with the groups meeting regularly in the lead up to the trip, learning some basic Japanese language, cultural etiquette and practising a musical number that was performed for dignitaries and the schools visited whilst in Setagaya.

Each trip was more moving than the other. With standing ovations at the schools and tears as the students said good bye to their home stay families, and elation when we arrived at the entrance to Tokyo Disneyland, it would be difficult to single out one standout event. But there is one that was certainly the most memorable for me, and that was in 2001.



After the September 11, 2001 bombings in the US (more commonly known as 9/11), the tour was in doubt. Parents, students and the council decided to go ahead, after all, the purpose of the Sister Cities Program was to promote peace and goodwill, and to cancel the trip after the bombings would go against everything the program stands for.

There were many tears and fears, and the media coverage, particularly in Japan was hectic. The fact we did it, that we did it safely with all risks considered, and we sent a positive message is the strongest memory of my involvement in the student program.

To hear what it is all about and what you can get from the experience, you're best to ask the students themselves. Look at their photos, read their reports in the tour booklets and get involved.





My first visit in 2000 was an unforgettable experience and one where I have made life long friendships.



# OUTGOING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## Recent Visits

› Valda Smith O.A.M.  
Sister City Committee Member

My first visit to Setagaya in 2000 was an unforgettable experience and one where I have made life long friendships.

To subsequently be selected as tour leader, and hence Ambassador for the City of Bunbury for the outgoing visits, was a real privilege and an honour. I was fortunate to be able to look after the Bunbury students in 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2010.

It is a responsible position of trust by parents for the tour leader to take their children so far away from home. The exchange program is a chance

to give the students a real taste of another culture – their food, their homes and the country itself. Homestay is probably the best example of the mutual friendship and hospitality.

Through the Student Goodwill visits, the children and their families gain a greater understanding of themselves, our neighbours and the world. This all helps towards world peace.

It is a pleasure to be able to share our long standing relationship between the City of Bunbury and our sister City of Setagaya in Japan.

## Life Changing Experience

› Alan Kidd  
Principal, Kingston Primary School

Over the past seventeen years I have been involved in the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Goodwill Student Outgoing Exchange, as Principal of three different participating primary schools.

The experience is one that has been life changing for the students involved as they gain a perspective of global citizenship and respect for other cultures. With the schools that

have a Japanese language program, students have gained the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and realise the depth of knowledge and understanding that they can demonstrate.

I am a huge advocate for the Sister Cities relationship. I congratulate all of those who have been involved in the vision and organisation of such a beneficial program.

# OUTGOING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## An Adventure Never Forgotten

> Kate Jowett

WHEN I saw the City of Bunbury was offering to send a staff member to Setagaya Japan, I knew there had to be some strings attached. Paid to holiday in Japan, go to Disneyland, see Mount Fuji, eat sushi. Ok, what's the catch?

You have to take 18 kids with you.

That can't be too bad, can it? I mean how hard can it be keeping track of eighteen 12-13 year-olds in one of the busiest cities in the world, navigating the train system during peak hour, dealing with motion sickness, home sickness and just general sickness? Sounds like a holiday, right?

So I may not have been lazing around on my beach towel, sipping cocktails while watching the sunset over a beach in Bali, but what I did

get was a money-can't-buy experience of one of the most interesting countries in the world, a suitcase full of memories and a heap of new-found skills.

The first step was helping to select the students and adult helpers to attend the trip. As we had more students willing to go than places available, we were able to select a pretty good bunch.

Over the next five months, I met with the students once or twice a month so we could get to know each other and prepare for the trip. We learned how to master our chopsticks, how to talk the talk (well at least try), studied the Japanese culture and customs and made gifts for our host families.



2013 Tour Group

We went on a camp together as a test run and luckily enough everyone got along well.

We learnt three songs to perform for the official visits in Setagaya – “G’Day G’Day”, “Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree” and “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” (sung in English and Japanese).

On October 4, we boarded our plane and arrived in Tokyo the next morning. For many of the kids this was their first overseas trip.

The next 10 days were packed full of adventures and new experiences – from visiting a school to addressing the Mayor and Chairman of Setagaya Assembly, to wearing kimonos and making origami at a seniors centre, to taking part in a traditional tea ceremony. We visited shrines and temples, went to Disney Land and Mount Fuji, jumped on and off packed trains and were treated like royalty by our Japanese hosts.

The highlight for everyone, including myself, was the homestay experience. My host family was a young couple – Ayako and Tsutomu – who owned a cute, but slightly savage, miniature Daschound dog called Nana. Like many young Japanese couples, they couldn’t afford to buy their own home in Tokyo, so they lived in the front section of Ayako’s parents’ home.

Living in a Japanese home was an eye-opener. The homes are small but incredibly clean. People work long hours and go to bed late. Shoes are never worn inside – always slippers.

My hosts showed me the sights, helped me with my Japanese language and fed me lots of amazing food – some of which I was never able to figure out what exactly it was.

In a city with so many people (just over 13 million) you expect chaos, but instead what you find is oddly calm. The city never stops, but runs like a well oiled machine. On one corner you see sky scrapers full of modern technology and on the

other a society where culture and tradition are still deeply ingrained. It’s surprisingly safe, incredibly clean and ultimately one very clever city.

By the time we got back to Australia it was clear the trip had changed us. Not only were we all wearing Micky Mouse ears, but we were using chopsticks like professionals, sipping on green tea and answering “hai, hai, hai” to every question we were asked.

While I was over there, I was proud of our Bunbury students. They took challenges in their stride, they tried the different food, embraced cultural experiences. They formed lifelong friendships with each other and their Japanese families. They were great ambassadors in Setagaya, but even better ambassadors for Bunbury now they are back.

You can tell their new found confidence, by the way they can stand up in front of a crowd and talk about their experience, the way they helped out with the lantern ceremony at the annual Christmas Carnival – bright and shining examples of the future of Bunbury.

Yeah, alright, I do have a few more grey hairs now and I have only just stopped counting to 18 in my sleep, but I miss those kids and can’t wait to see what the future brings for them. I am of course grateful to the four brave ladies who came along to assist me on the tour. They were amazing – I couldn’t have done it, and come back sane, without them.

I would also like to thank Jenni Brown and the Bunbury Sister Cities Committee for their support and generosity helping me prepare for the trip. Finally, to the City of Bunbury – thank you, the experience changed me for the better. I did things I never thought I would or could. If anyone else is thinking about taking up this opportunity – go for it. It will be one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of your life.



"The more we get to know each other the more we realise we are the same..."





# INCOMING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## The Early Years

› Pauline Vukelic

The first Setagaya primary student groups began visiting Bunbury in 1992. Prior to the first Bunbury student visit to Setagaya in 1995, Setagaya primary school students stayed at a local hotel and were day hosted by local families and schools. It took a deal of persuasion to convince the Setagaya Board of Education (BOE), organizers of the primary school visits to all three of Setagaya's sister cities, of Doebling in Vienna, Austria, Winnipeg in Canada and Bunbury, to agree to homestay.

We were convinced of the benefits of homestay, and for each reason given by Setagaya not to homestay we countered with the benefits of friendship, understanding and opportunity to "taste" Australian family life. Small Japanese houses, unusual food, sleeping on the floor, bathing style, and language were some of the reasons cited for not offering homestay to Bunbury students. We here in Bunbury were in no doubt that homestay should be included in the exchange program. Persistence resulted in the Board of Education agreeing to trial homestay - Japanese students in Bunbury homes and Bunbury students in Setagaya homes.

This has undoubtedly become the essence of highly successful student exchange for Australian and Japanese students alike. It is well demonstrated that the homestay experience is the very essence of well-established successful global exchange programs such as Lions and Rotary International.

From the very beginning, Bunbury host families have been well prepared for hosting Japanese students. They have been provided with a

home hosting guidebook containing key information including basic Japanese language, cultural differences etc, in addition to meetings with City staff and Sister Cities committee members who have experience in either living in Japan, Japanese language or being tour leader.

What does an eleven or twelve year old Japanese student think when confronted with the vast expanse of clear blue sky, Indian Ocean pounding on the Back Beach, kangaroos eating seed from their hands, or grassed school playing fields? Generally there is wonderment at the abundance of nature, the cleanliness, so few people, such large houses. Sometime there is fear and nervousness.

Differences, differences, differences. Hundreds of primary school students, tour leaders and accompanying adults, who have participated in the Goodwill Exchange Program since its inception, experienced that the more we get to know each other the more we realise we are the same.

Cultural understanding begins over shared meals, shared nervousness and laughter, shared games, shared experiences. In the beginning it was hotel rooms, now it is a being welcomed as a member of the hosting family, sleeping on a bed or on a futon on the floor. It matters only that the welcome is warm, caring and sincere.

Long live home hosting as an important experience in the Goodwill Student exchange program.



# INCOMING STUDENT EXCHANGE

## Tour Leader's Perspective

> Valda Smith O.A.M.

It was a very fun filled time being a tour leader for the Incoming Student Goodwill Visits from Setagaya.

Although you still have to be responsible you can also share with your visitors the great things about Bunbury. The students are very keen to see what we have to offer. It is the first time many of the students have ever seen the ocean or visit the country side.

The highlights are generally being able to see dolphins in the wild and feed kangaroos at the Bunbury Wildlife Park. They enjoy going on school visits and to see how different our schools are to theirs in Setagaya.

Homestay is another great experience not only for the students but also for homestay hosts and their families.

Once again this strengthens World Peace and friendship between the City of Bunbury and our Sister City of Setagaya in Japan.

> Suzanne Ellis (BSSCC) and Tim Ellis

Although we have family living in Japan we were nervous and excited about hosting three young school students and the following year in 2010, a teacher.

What a delight it turned out to be. Seeing the joy & pleasure on the faces at simple adventures - running in the water and playing in the sand at Koombana Bay, enjoying the play ground at Donnybrook, leaving signed gnomes at Gnomesville.

The bouquet of origami flowers received as a gift, still sits among my vases as a reminder of our three young visitors.

Our visiting teacher who is a soccer coach really enjoyed the outdoor lifestyle-visits to the pristine beaches of Dunsborough, kayaking on the Collie River (with dolphins & birdlife experience close by) home barbeques & trying a variety of foods.

The communication process was far easier than we expected.

The experience has enriched our lives so much so that we have since been back to Japan & visited with some of our homestay families.

It has also made us appreciate what an amazing place Bunbury & the surrounding areas are.

> Dorothy Bail

I had very little knowledge of the sister city student exchange program and no prior need to use the Japanese language when I applied for incoming tour coordinator position in 2012.

The Japanese students were a delight and were themselves delighted with and interested in the various experiences during their Bunbury stay, from the fun of the skating rink to attending school.

It was very apparent on their return from their homestay that the homestay was the highlight for so many of the students. The parting farewell was the unhappy time of the trip with a few tears being shed by both host families and students.

I thoroughly enjoyed the student visit and I feel that it was a privilege to have been chosen for the role. I would recommend this experience to everybody.



Photography stands alone in its ability to "capture a moment in time". These moments depict many things, as we have seen with the images created and shared between the residents of Bunbury and Setagaya. The combined photo competitions offer a glimpse into the lives and lifestyle of the people from both cities as well as recording what will become tomorrow's history of the places photographed. A well kept archive of these images will certainly grow in cultural value as the years pass.

Steve Lloyd-Smith  
- Lloyd-Smith Photography  
Photo Competition judge



# Photographic Competition

For several decades a public photographic competition has been held in Setagaya. The inaugural gift to Bunbury of fifteen annual winning photographs were received in the early 1990's.

The inaugural Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities photographic competition to select photographs as a reciprocal gift to Setagaya began in 1995 as a collaboration between community members of the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee (BSSCC) and the Bunbury Camera Club which led to the commencement of the photographic exchange.

Every year since, fifteen photographs depicting life in Setagaya and sometimes of countries further afield are received. These are sometimes displayed in public buildings such as the City Library, the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, the Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre and local shopping centres.

By contrast to the annual Setagaya photographic competition, the Bunbury competition and exhibition is biennial, hence every two years thirty photographs are sent to Setagaya for display in their public buildings including in the Public Gallery in Setagaya Art Museum and in the foyer of the Setagaya Ward Office.

Selected images invariably feature Bunbury's unique skyline, dolphins, sunsets and an array of lifestyle and landscape images. Teachers at local schools and SW Institute of Technology encourage students to submit entries in the Student section with a flow-on effect in the Open section in subsequent years. Themed competition encourages a more diverse range of images so that over the years a substantial collection of varied subject matter photographs is assembled.

Major changes in photographic technology over the past twenty years have resulted in increasing numbers of photographs submitted, more varied techniques utilising digital cameras and more people being involved. In 2013 a partnership with the Bunbury Mail newspaper has resulted in prolonged promotion over several months of the Sister City relationship via the Photographic competition. Well known local photographers

advise the Photographic Competition organizing committee and other photographers from further afield select the winning entries.

Cash prizes are awarded by local sponsors including the City of Bunbury, and the public votes for the People's Choice Award.

Since the inception of this exchange, over three hundred photographs have been added to the City of Bunbury Art Collection.



# CULTURE SHARED

## Marathon Runners Exchange

> Allan Whitfield

The bond between the Bunbury Runners Club and the City of Setagaya is strong and has withstood the test of time. Commencing in 1994, the Bunbury Runners Club received their first delegation of marathon runners from Setagaya to participate in the Bunbury Marathon. In 1995, 13 runners from Setagaya competed in the Bunbury Marathon. Since then, although in fewer numbers, Setagaya runners take part in the marathon almost every year.

Regular visitation from Setagaya has now occurred since 2006 with runners attending to participate in the full and half marathon. The year 2010 saw two members from the Bunbury Runners Club, Allan and Michelle Whitfield, visiting Setagaya and participate in the Setagaya 246 Half Marathon. Participation in this prestigious event is by invitation only.

This started a trend, as during 2011 to 2013 two members from the Bunbury Runners Club have annually visited Setagaya and have participated with some fantastic results.



Whilst both groups are visiting the respective Cities, they enjoy many of the local sites and scenes, get immersed in the culture by participating in homestay and are officially welcomed by each respective Mayor.

After the decimating earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan in 2011, the Bunbury Runners Club felt as though they had to assist in some way. In May of 2011, they rallied to raise funds from its members to donate to the relief program through the existing bond with the City of Setagaya. However, this was not possible. Through the Busselton Sugito Sister Cities relationship, the Bunbury Runners Club implemented and sponsored three boys from Tomioka in the Fukushima Prefecture to visit Bunbury for a 10 day fully funded holiday to renew their spirits and participate in the Junior Accumulated Half Marathon.

In 2014 Bunbury Runners Club is planning to take a delegation of up to 10 runners to visit Setagaya to participate in the half marathon.



## CULTURE SHARED

**Multicultural Night Under the Stars**

› Jenni Brown



On the Saturday evening of the Labor Day long weekend every year, Bunbury is host to Western Australia's premiere multicultural community event, the vibrant Multicultural Night Under the Stars. In recent years, well over a thousand people have attended the event to taste the culinary delights of many nations, buy exotic souvenirs from market stalls, gather information from the cultural stands, see a range of performances on the stage and soak up the atmosphere in celebration of Harmony Day.

Since 2007, Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee has been represented at Multicultural Night Under the Stars in the form of an information stand run by Sister Cities Committee members, former primary school exchange participants and the Consulate General of Japan in Perth. The stand features the opportunity to have your name written in Japanese script and gives away free bilingual publications including Sister Cities pamphlets,

JA News, Perth Express, Nipponia, Australia-Japan Society of Western Australia (AJSWA) newsletters, Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Programme applications, and Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO) travel brochures.

In 2007, 2008 and 2009, Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee joined with a number of other Japanese groups in the district to host a kimono and yukata fashion parade on the stage with a wide range of vivid colours and designs being modelled by Parkfield Primary School Japanese language students and many accompanying adults. For the first time, in 2012 it was possible for community members to contribute a personalised lantern to light up a crane-shaped art installation, and this popular activity is set to become an annual feature of the evening hosted by the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee.



## CULTURE SHARED

# Simcoa Teien Japanese Garden

> Pauline Vukelic



Officially opened on December 16th, 2000, by Miss Kylie Hansen, a primary school exchangee to Setagaya, the Simcoa Teien Japanese Garden was designed and created by long time Perth resident, Eiji Morozumi. Kylie was assisted by former Mayor John Castrilli, and Japanese Consul General Mr. Nakada.

The garden was created to provide a place of quiet contemplation for patients and visitors to the South West Health Campus in Bunbury.

Sister Eileen O'Grady of the Order of St John addressed guests at the opening ceremony as did Mr. David Myles, Joint General Manager of Simcoa Operations, co-sponsor of the garden.

“Wild Lilly” performers, Lisa Clarke and Tanya Manning who sang the 1960's Japanese international hit “Sukiyaki Song”, provided musical entertainment. This was followed by a Japanese tea ceremony performed by Gelorup residents Hideo and Michiko Kawamoto. Over many years the Kawamotos created Ikebana weekly for the foyers of the Bunbury City Council building and the Bunbury Regional Hospital with the aim to provide an opportunity of quiet contemplation for visitors and patients.

Plants and sculptured trees soften the blend of simulated mountain and plain, river and ocean. The jarrah benches provided by sponsor Simcoa Operations invite visitors to sit in quiet reflection of the tranquil scene. Rocks, placed with great care, in a sea of blue metal are rimmed with the raked lines of simulated pounding surf. The Simcoa Teien Garden is representative of the *Kare-san-sui* method of Japanese garden design, first practiced by Zen Buddhist priests using crushed stone to represent the bodies of water, which are so significant in all Japanese gardens.

*Kare-san-sui* gardens are associated with healing and thus are particularly suited to the hospital. The friendship stone hints at two cities, Bunbury and Setagaya, separated by sea, but joined in sister city relationship to promote peace and harmony between peoples, not only Australian and Japanese but for all who choose to enter the serene garden.

Other Simcoa Teien Garden sponsors were the City of Bunbury Sister Cities Committee and Koombana Bay Holiday Resort.



## CULTURE SHARED

# Flowering Plum Trees

› Pauline Vukelic

Conceived as an idea in the mid 1990's, the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee began the custom of presenting flowering plum (*Prunus Nigra*) trees to schools and local community facilities visited by Setagaya Goodwill exchange students on their annual visits to Bunbury, and Mayoral delegations visiting every five years.

The aim is to have a blossoming of pink plum flowers in and around Bunbury each spring, to symbolize the blossoming friendship between children and adults of our two sister cities. Students from many local Bunbury primary schools have participated in tree planting with Japanese students over the past eighteen or so years.

Flowering plum trees have been presented to local primary schools including Cooinda, South Bunbury, Parkfield, Kingston, Bunbury Cathedral

Grammar School, Withers Adam Road, and Bunbury Central among others.

Former Mayors Keiji Ohba, Noriyuki Kumamoto and present Mayor Nobuto Hosaka have all planted flowering plum trees in Bunbury, most recently in November 2012 on the 20th Anniversary Delegation, in the proposed Friendship Garden in the Queens Garden precinct. On the occasion of the 5th Anniversary delegation visit in 1997 a tree was presented amidst the earthworks for the South West Health Campus (opened in 1999) and is now planted in the Simcoa Teien Garden located near the Bunbury Regional Hospital day surgery unit.

Generally a plaque is presented with the tree so that over time there is an historical record of the trail of flowering plum trees in and around the City.



## CULTURE SHARED

### Wagner Choral Group

> Pauline Vukelic

Several Setagaya residents, who were members of the Tokyo based Wagner Choral Group performed in a concert at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre in November 1997 which was part of a national tour of choral performances. During their stay in Bunbury the choristers enjoyed warm hospitality, an Aussie BBQ and meeting fellow music lovers.

### International Quilt Challenge

> Pauline Vukelic

Residents of Setagaya were invited by the Bunbury Quilters Club to submit designer quilt squares for the international competition in the late 1990's.

Exchange of ideas and quilting continued for some years.

### Croquet Visit

> Masaaki Yamada

I visited Bunbury as the only member of the Japan National Croquet team to join the World Croquet Championships in November 1997. It was such a big competition with players from all over the world and I was so nervous.

However my uneasiness vanished in no time, and I subsequently spent a lovely time due to the best hospitality courtesy of the Mayor and Japanese residents of Bunbury who looked after me very well.

I was fascinated by Jacaranda flowers at a corner of the croquet ground.

My lasting memory is that Bunbury is the most wonderful and beautiful city I have seen in my life and the Jacaranda flower I can not forget forever!



## CULTURE SHARED

# Basketball Visit

> Dean Lomax

While our Student Exchange program was ticking along nicely, the Committee were looking for some other ideas to increase the community participation in the Sister Cities program. As fate would have it, our Council Officer appointed to the Committee, Russell Smith, was a keen basketball referee and mentioned that maybe we should investigate taking a sports team. A meeting was set up with the local Bunbury Junior Basketball Association and interested persons, and we had a lot of interest very early on.

Once we got the go-ahead, we ended up with a team of guys, aged around 13, and some of their parents who were keen to visit our Sister City and play some hoops. The playing group included our first indigenous person to take part in any trip to Setagaya, a young guy named Cody Bell, who once over there, proved to be a superstar both on and off the court.

Once we arrived in Setagaya, (September 1999) the boys didn't have much time to acclimatise as the first game was scheduled in the afternoon of their very first day. You had to see the look on the boys and the coaches faces when they found out that a different school would play them almost every day.

Large crowds of very excited Japanese school children wanted to meet the Aussie kids. As well as staying in hostels, the boys were lucky enough to take part in the homestay program and got to live with local families for about three nights.

One of the highlights of the trip was when the team was playing Funabashi High School and next minute the gym doors opened and in marched our very own cheer squad.

The Bunbury students who were partaking in that year's goodwill trip had arrived in Setagaya that day and made their first stop at the game to cheer on the boys. It was an incredible sight, seeing the Bunbury kids chanting 'Aussie Aussie Aussie' and competing with the Japanese cheer squads.

A huge congratulation must go to Russell Smith for the vision to make the trip happen, to Peter O'Sullivan who coached the boys, and to Peter Ross and Glenda Harrison for being the able assistants both courtside and during the trip.

The trip finished on a high with the team and their parents spending their final day at Tokyo Disneyland. I'll never forget the looks of a very tired but very happy group of students as they headed home at Narita Airport. For the record they played 7 games and won 5 of them. Nice work guys!



## CULTURE SHARED

# Dragon Boating

> Pauline Yukelic

Dragon boating is a non-existent sport activity in Setagaya! In fact there is only one river in Setagaya which forms the boundary with the neighbouring city of Kawasaki to the south of Tokyo. Undaunted, a crew of Setagaya City Assembly members and citizens who had never sat in a dragon boat visited Bunbury in 1993 at the invitation of the newly formed Bunbury Dragon Boating Association. In total over 700 competitors from all over Australia visited Bunbury for the inaugural regatta.

Regatta organizers arranged a dragon boat and some quick on-water paddling lessons for the Japanese crew on their first ever visit to

Bunbury. Imagine the culture shock at every turn for the suit wearing city dwellers as they prepared for the regatta, competed against fiercely determined dragon boat crews on the Leschenault Inlet and were regaled for their enthusiasm by cheering on-lookers.

With the competition at an end, Setagaya visitors were shown key attractions in and around Bunbury. Highlights for the group were undoubtedly the warmth of the Bunbury welcome, clear and clean oceans and waterways, and the knowledge that if they never had the experience again, they were pioneer Dragon Boaters from Setagaya!

## WA State Dragon Boat Titles, 1993

> Jill Harrison

Since my first dragon boat competition in Bunbury in March 1990 I had dreamt of the chance to compete internationally. The Setagaya team coming to Bunbury to compete at the Australian Masters and WA State Dragon Boat Titles in May 1993 was my first experience with an international crew. It was also the beginning of the Bunbury dragon boat community's bid to bring international teams to Bunbury.

I was paddling with the corporate crew, the SCM Dragonbusters, so I didn't actually compete against the Setagaya crew, but I watched them take third place in both the Men's Novice Final and the Women's Novice

Final. It was a fantastic effort for a land-locked crew who had only had a few practise sessions. Although they were new to the sport, what the Setagaya competitors lacked in experience and training they certainly made up for with enthusiasm.

At the celebrations at the end of the weekend a Japanese crew member gave me a traditional Japanese wooden Kendama toy, which is a treasured reminder of their visit.

Being in the presence of an international team certainly whetted my appetite for international competition, and I went on to compete in Macau, Hong Kong, Penang and Singapore.

## CULTURE SHARED

**Eisteddfod Gala Concert, 1993**

› Pauline Vukelic



During a visit by former Mayor of Setagaya Mr Keiji Ohba to Bunbury in 1992, an invitation was extended for Setagaya musicians to appear as guest performers in the 1993 City of Bunbury Eisteddfod Gala concert.

The Setagaya based Japanese Traditional Music Association (Seishokai ) ten member group was lead by Mrs Seijo Tominari, and her daughter Ritsuko Mikami and featured Mr Jido Fujii , a “shakuhachi” (bamboo flute) player, who was a Japanese representative at the Brisbane World Expo in 1988. Seijo and Ritsuko subsequently visited Bunbury on several other occasions, performing at local schools, shopping centres and as guest performers in the opening ceremony for the 2001 Australian Sister Cities Association conference hosted jointly by the City of Bunbury and Shire of Busselton.

Performers played three traditional instruments. The “shakuhachi” - bamboo flute with origins in China introduced to Japan during the Kamakura Period (1185-1333), gains its name from its length (about 55cms) - one “shaku” (Japanese foot) and “hachi” eight.

The Koto is a 13 stringed zither-like instrument that originated in Japan in the Heian Period (794-1185) and the “shamisen” is a banjo-like

instrument with three strings played with a plectrum.

In addition to their guest Japanese musical performance, the “Seishokai” musicians performed with renowned didgerido player Richard Walley and later the Bunbury Cathedral School Choir as an expression of cross cultural understanding through music and song, to the packed Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre audience. The audience was thrilled by the rendition of Waltzing Matilda and the well know Cherry Blossom (“Sakura”) song on the three instruments of “shakuhachi”, “koto” and “shamisen”.

During their stay they visited the Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre, the Wildlife Park and facilities and sights in and around Bunbury. They experienced an on-camera encounter with a wild possum, which brought squeals of fear and delight and was broadcast later that day on GWN news!

Footnote: Members of “Seishokai” will perform for the third time at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre in November 2014 when they appear as guest performers at the Sister Cities Australia Conference opening ceremony.



## CULTURE SHARED

**Top Jazz Ballet visits Setagaya, 2000**

> Sharon Lomax

In 2000, I escorted twenty five dancers from Top Jazz Ballet and seven community members to the Setagaya Summer Festival. This was no mean feat, and the first time an Australian performance had participated at this festival. There were many sequins stitched, rehearsals had and much money raised in the lead up, and it was worth it. To sit amongst a crowd of one hundred thousand people and see the dance troupe do their thing brought tears to my eyes. It was sheer exhilaration when the crowd stood and chanted for more when the performance was complete. Not only was this great exposure for Top Jazz Ballet but enormous exposure for Bunbury. The dance troupe performed four times at the festival to an estimated half a million people, as well as schools, for the Setagaya Assembly and

conducted dance lessons for community groups. The group also experienced home stay and, after all performances were done, they were able to take in some sights and experience the culture.

I still stay in touch with several of the students and dancers I shared these experiences with. By now some are married and some have children of their own. Whilst they have all gone in different directions, they all still have fond memories of their trip to Japan.

To hear what it is all about and what you can get from the experience, you're best to ask the students and dancers themselves. Look at their photos, read their reports in the tour booklets and get involved.



## CULTURE SHARED

# Inseki Project

> Jenni Brown

In July 2010, the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee received a formal approach from the Inseki Group to visit Bunbury at the end of 2010 and to perform their stage production “Life”.

Mr Kazuaki Nunomiya and Ms Sachiko Nakazato then visited Bunbury during late September to discuss the prospect of the production, meet key personal and visit potential venues.

“Life” was a mime about a Samurai who was lazy and spent his time drinking and gambling. The Grim Reaper appears informing him that he has to learn how to live cleanly and environmentally before he was allowed into heaven. The Samurai is transported into another space and time, where he learns to live humbly and respectfully of others.

On 24 October 2010, the troupe of five arrived in Bunbury. They home stayed with various families throughout the Bunbury area. During the visit, the group performed at Busselton Senior High School, Parkfield Primary School, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, Edith Cowan University and busked outside of Bunbury Centrepoint.

The group hoped to visit Bunbury again in 2011 and 2012, however due to limited funding, were unable to do so. Members of the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee who visited Setagaya for the 20th Anniversary were able to catch up with some of the Inseki members in Tokyo.

## Mikoshi

> Dr Hajime Yamauchi

In 2001, my wife became a member of the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee. One day she asked me to build a Mikoshi for that year’s Christmas parade. Why Mikoshi in a Christmas parade, I wondered? A Mikoshi is described as a portable shrine which is carried by men and women in exciting festivals. It represents a sacred tiny house for the Shinto gods, but nowadays it’s a symbol of a festival. According to my wife, the committee wanted a symbol of Japan to showcase in the Christmas parade and had decided on a Mikoshi. Of course I had never built a Mikoshi and I didn’t think that many Japanese people would have built one by themselves.

I researched the internet and made a (very simple) blue print and after purchasing materials, I started building in our backyard under the hot summer sunshine. I completed the job with help from my wife and two young children just before the parade. The parade was awesome and exciting! Other committee members and many local people (especially kids!) helped to carry the heavy Mikoshi along streets with traditional shout “Wa-sshoi!”. Everybody enjoyed this unique experience.

I actually appreciated the committee to give me such a rare opportunity to build a Mikoshi and an experience carrying it in a parade with people in Australia, a country far far from Japan.



## CULTURE SHARED

# Setagaya Citizen Visits

> Pauline Vukelic

Imagine a group of elderly Japanese people running for dear life towards their Coaster bus as cattle stampeded in a paddock at Roelands. It was terrifying for them, though funny to watch for those of us trying to herd the cattle!

These same people had just ridden on a quad bike through orchards, picked & stamped grapefruit ready for market and were in wonderment at this taste of rural lifestyle.

Further up the Ferguson Valley a true Aussie bush afternoon tea awaited them. Imagine their amazement as our host twirled the billy of tea around and around and served it in tin mugs.

From time to time individuals or small groups of Setagaya citizens who have wanted to experience a snapshot of Australian lifestyle have been home hosted in Bunbury. Whilst not officially sister city projects or delegations, these people have none-the-less had some experiences well beyond any official visitors.

Other fun memories included a group of well-dressed women (who incidentally had been advised to dress casually for the outing) trudging

through the Leschenault mud in stockings and high heels scooping for crabs and being terrified as a stingray was hauled up in a crab net!

Another highlight is probably being the first Japanese to ever score a hatrick at cricket, a game hither to unknown to him, being presented with a minature cricket bat and full size ball to commemorate his achievement!!

Undoubtedly our Japanese guests have been told how Australian men assist in the kitchen and with household chores. Intent on abiding by this custom, one man turned up with an apron to wear while he washed dishes Japanese style. This being under cold running water, one item at a time, slowly and methodically and then leaving the task part way through!!

So many moments of laughter, wonderment, acting, miming and communicating without words have been shared by many hundreds of people through home hosting Setagaya citizens. Long may they visit and enjoy their time together with us!



# BUNBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

## Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee Delegation May 19-27, 1996

> Pauline Vukelic

Members of the Setagaya Branch of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industries (TCCI), visited Bunbury in March 1994 on a fact finding mission so a reciprocal visit was jointly planned by the Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) and Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee for May 1996.

The two-fold aim of the visit to Setagaya was to formalize ties between the two Chambers and secondly to explore trade, cultural and commercial ties between the two cities.

Former Mayor Ern Manea lead the delegation which included representatives of the Bunbury Port Authority, the South West Development Commission and Bunbury Regional Hospital. In addition owners of local businesses including real estate, commercial property, and horticulture and a journalist and photo journalist explored options for further interactions between the two cities.

Following a Civic reception hosted by the City of Setagaya, visits were also made to aged care and community care facilities, the waste management plants, Setagaya Art Museum and local Setagaya businesses. The Bunbury hosted cocktail party, attended by Australian and Japanese Government representatives, Chamber of Commerce members and Setagaya business people served to showcase our city, the South West region of Western Australia and the trade and commercial opportunities available.

In Kobe, capital of Western Australia's sister state, Hyogo Prefecture, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor and toured Kobe port facilities.

No direct business or commercial outcomes arose from the delegation visit, however it served to strengthen the sister city relationship. It is important to note that delegates, excluding the Mayor, were self funded participants on this trip.



## CULTURE SHARED

**Flower Designers' Club of Bunbury**

> Eileen Wenn

The Flower Designers' Club of Bunbury was founded in 1965 and continues to be a club of like minded people working with the passion of creating floral designs and sharing their knowledge, skills and experience.

In 2005, while in Tokyo for the Wold Flower Arrangers Show, Eileen Wenn visited Setagaya with Pauline Vukelic, meeting the Mayor and Councillors of Setagaya and Riho (Noriko) Miyamoto, Headmistress of the Koryu Toyokai.

Noriko and her students hosted a demonstration of Suibokuka Temae, a fusion of Japanese ikebana with waka poetry chanting and the elegant code of traditional tea ceremony expressing the beauty, grace and elegance of Japanese world of arts.

A special bond of friendship through flowers began and in 2008 the Flower Designers' Club celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the annual Blooming Art Exhibition held in conjunction with the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries.

Noriko and eight students accepted an invitation to be special guests for the celebration.

They provided their special demonstration in the Art Galleries to the delight of the citizens of Bunbury.

Again extending the friendship through flowers, Noriko and her group invited members of Flower Designers' Club to their Annual Ikebana Exhibition at the Meiji Shrine in Harajuku in April 2009.

A group of ten including club members Eileen Wenn, Shirley Woods, Jean Shine, Pauline Vukelic and other floral designers travelled to Tokyo. They were welcomed by Setagaya Mayor Kumamoto, enjoyed the exhibition, homestay experiences, workshop and tours.

In 2015, the Flower Designers' Club of Bunbury will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Noriko's Ikebana school has accepted the invitation to their Setagaya friends to share friendship through flowers.





The lantern festival was one of the most engaging community events the committee has held.



## CULTURE SHARED

# Christmas Lantern Festival

› Jenni Brown

As 2012 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Sister City Agreement between Setagaya and Bunbury, the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee wanted to complete 2012 with an occasion that the residents of Bunbury could partake in and enjoy.

Every year the City of Bunbury events team host the Bunbury Christmas Carnival in Bicentennial Square. Preliminary discussions took place between the events team and the Executive Officer of the Sister Cities Committee. The idea of a Christmas Lantern Festival was formed. Once endorsed by the Committee, purchases of 2000 fire proof lanterns, 2000 tea light candles, t-shirts, pencils and Christmas Glitter were made.

In October 2012, during the Setagaya delegation visit, Mayor Hosaka and the visitors signed two special lanterns wishing peace, good will and happiness to all. During November, the sixteen Setagaya Students visiting on their goodwill exchange also signed wishes on the lanterns.

On 2nd December 2012, the Christmas Carnival took place. An artist was commissioned to draw a “peace crane” on the bricks near the stage area in Bicentennial Square. Families visited the lantern marquee and wrote their Christmas wish on lanterns. Generally children asked Father Christmas for a favourite toy whilst the adults wrote wishes for goodwill and peace. The lanterns were weighted down with river sand and a candle placed in them. Our artist then placed the lanterns on his peace crane drawing.

The candles were lit at 6.30pm during the popular Christmas parade. When the crowd returned, the lanterns were glowing brightly. It was truly a spectacular sight.

The lantern festival was one of the best engaging community events the committee has held. Toddlers through to grandparents were involved in signing their Japanese Christmas Lantern. It embraced everything that Sister Cities recognise; friendship, co-operation and understanding.



FOOTNOTE: The City of Bunbury and the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee entered the Christmas Lantern Festival in the National Sister Cities Award 2013, where the project received a Highly Commended honour.

## INAUGURAL COMMUNITY CHAIR

# Pauline A Vukelic

In the early 1990's some of us in Bunbury shared a dream. The dream was to create a link between Japan and Australia via the sister city network. So it came to pass, that in 1992 Bunbury and Setagaya formally entered into the sister city relationship.

Having travelled to Japan on exchange myself - through the Lions and Rotary student exchange program - greatly enriched my life and my dream was to be able to give young people that same experience.

As the inaugural community chair of the BSSCC the foremost project was to commence the Bunbury student exchange program, as Setagaya students had been visiting Bunbury annually since 1992. In 1995 the inaugural student group of junior high school students visited Setagaya, Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima. Henceforth, primary student groups have formed the cornerstone of our enduring sister city relationship.

How many lives have been touched by the efforts of many to create opportunities and manage programs such as student, sport, photographic and music exchange. Without doubt many thousands in the past twenty plus years.

With limited understanding of the benefits of sister city relationships, our early efforts were to promote the ideals of sister city relationships to the Bunbury community via student exchange and photographic competition and exchange.

The passion of community sister city committee members was boundless and we were able to pursue ideas according to our energy and expertise with the support of a City of Bunbury staff members as Executive Officer and the South West Development Commission which had initially brokered the relationship between Bunbury and Setagaya.



## FORMER COMMUNITY CHAIR

# Dean Lomax

One of the things I think is vitally important in life is to play a role in your local community, no matter how big or small that role may be. Upon arriving in Bunbury in 1995, I saw an advert wanting community members for the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee and having had experience with the Sister City program back home in Queensland, I thought this would be a great opportunity to start getting involved in our new home town. Little did I know that in just a few years' time after joining, I would be lucky enough to chair the Committee and to help build and also strengthen the relationship with Setagaya. While I am aware that there are some negative connotations with the Sister City concept, not only here but in any city or town with a like relationship, I can truthfully say that even the less obvious benefits of the program far outweigh any negatives. During my very rewarding time chairing the committee I was lucky enough to see many key things happen as a result of the relationship that have had an impact on our city. There are many young people who undertook trips to Japan as part of our exchange program, who are today outstanding members of not only our community but also cities around the world. I would like to think that our exchange programs helped these young people to open their eyes to the big wide world and provide them with the impetus to go on to becoming achievers in their own right.

From a very community based point of view I think that the opening of the Simcoa sponsored Japanese Garden at the SW Health Campus is something that to this day still allows people to see first hand what our relationship with Setagaya is all about.



By far and away our biggest achievement during my time was hosting the Australian Sister Cities Association National Conference in 2001. It was held only a month after the tragedy of the 9/11 attacks in America and a short time after the Ansett Airlines collapse and was an outstanding forum for people to show that we could all make a difference by working together. The conference was held in conjunction with the Shire of Busselton and the definite highlight of the conference was winning the ASCA Best Sister City Program in Australia for 2001.

I stepped down from the Chair in 2002, it was time to give someone else a chance to lead this dynamic group, but was very humbled to receive a special award from the City of Bunbury at that year's 10th Anniversary celebration of the relationship with Setagaya. I must thank Pauline Vukelic, the first community Chairperson of the committee for providing me with an excellent platform to take over the role and to continue improving on the aims and objectives of the original charter. The 5 years at the helm were certainly tough at times, but ultimately very rewarding.





**1993**

## THE FIRST DELEGATION VISITS SETAGAYA

> Del Ambrosius

It was April 1993 and cherry blossom time in Japan when Councillors Mike Buswell, Don Fotakis, Linda Marquis, Judy Jones and Del Ambrosius, embarked on an eight day trip to Setagaya City. This was the first delegation by councillors following the signing of the Sister City Agreement in 1992 and the group carried the unique gift of a mayoral robe for Mayor Keiji Ohba.

On arrival, councillors hit the floor running with tours of the Setagaya Assembly, visit to the community centre, traditional tea ceremony, 14 course Japanese dinners and much more. Other highlights included the Setagaya Art Museum, a stunning contemporary gallery, where we enjoyed full silver service lunch in the dining room overlooking tranquil gardens on the former post-war USA headquarters site.

The days were jammed with activities and sight seeing such as making rice cakes at a homestead museum, enjoying an Aussie-style barbecue dinner and spending the weekend in the mountains where snow juxtaposed the

cherry blossoms. We took a chair lift from Ashinoko Lake to Owakudani (Great Boiling Valley), went shopping in Tokyo and watched the extraordinary Kabuki-za Theatre.





1997

5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

› Leanne Maher  
Coordinator 5th Anniversary Celebrations.

Anxious anticipation, last-minute changes, pomp and ceremony, warmth and friendship, lasting impressions, relief and great pride - these are all words that are part of my memories of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bunbury-Setagaya Sister City relationship.

After the panic of the Assembly Members arriving a day earlier than expected, the success of the impromptu dinner cruise in Koombana Bay that night showed me that the most important aspect of these celebrations was not whether everything went perfectly, but rather the relationships that were being formed and the exchanging of our cultures. To watch the excitement of the Assembly members, attired in full business suits, pull up our famed crabs, and then join in with the boisterous “karaoke” singing on the way back to land, was a personal highlight.

But these 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were also very formal, with Mayor Ohba being met by founding Mayor Dr Manea and driven down Victoria Street on a horse drawn carriage. He was then welcomed by Mayor Castrilli at the entrance of City of Bunbury building to the music of the Bunbury City Band, and applauded by staff and residents.

For the next two days, we showcased our beautiful City to the delegation. All three groups – the Mayoral, Assembly and Community group members, visited different locations offering diverse experiences. This was to be the first time home-stay had been offered to adult visitors and the participating Setagaya community members had required considerable encouragement.

However, it proved to be one of the highlights, and the success paved the way for the current home-stay opportunities with our student exchanges.

One very emotional moment I recall was the visit to the graveside of our former Deputy Mayor Graham Bricknell, who had been a great friend of the Setagaya assembly members particularly one affectionately known as the “The Fisherman”

At the final night community BBQ, TAFE hospitality students served up emu and kangaroo kebabs and local produce. Guests danced together and the City of Setagaya was presented with a framed stained glass window in recognition of the occasion. This was a fitting end to three days of bonding and I enjoyed a dance with Mr Kosaka, Head of the International Affairs Section.



Mayors John Castrilli and Keiji Ohba. Chairperson of Setagaya City Assembly, Yoshiyuki Manabe. CEO City of Bunbury, Gary Brennan.



**2002****10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

› Leanne Maher

Coordinator 10th Anniversary Celebrations (as former Mayor's Executive Assistant).

Organising the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations was a stark difference to the issues we faced in organising the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

In five years, so many cultural barriers had been removed. So rather than have to work at encouraging the delegation to participate in activities such as home-stay, we had an over-abundance of requests to fulfil.

A very large delegation attended for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which was to be slightly less formal than the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but would enable us to include activities to more immerse our guests into our community.

Once again, we showcased our city and region with visits to the Dolphin Discovery Centre and a Protea farm where our guests witnessed the production ready for export to Japan.

A highlight was the visit to Djidi Djidi School where the children performed traditional Aboriginal dance and song, and presented artwork to the leader of the delegation.

This was followed by a morning tea of damper and traditional food, prepared by the school community.

Who could forget the squeals and giggles of our evening crabbing with scoop nets in the Leschenault Estuary. Despite providing advice on appropriate dress and footwear for crabbing, the elegant ladies turned up in stockings and cork high-heels, and promptly waded into the water!

The Assembly members were very interested to learn of the services provided within our community, particularly on how we cared for our elderly. Visits to Ocean Star Nursing Home

and Wattle Hill Independent Living Units were both educational and enjoyable for our guests and the residents who graciously invited us into their units.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was also an opportunity to again meet with friends and overseas colleagues I had now been closely associated with for five years. Our relationship had moved from being not only professional, but to one of friendship. We had become true friends!



FOOTNOTE: The Bunbury Mayoral delegation visited Setagaya in June 2002



2007

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

› Jenni Brown

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations were held in Bunbury from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

The planned lunch time welcome reception in Council gardens and function centre was delayed and assembled City of Bunbury staff and invited guests waited for the arrival of the delegation, and waited, and waited. It seemed that Mayor David Smith decided to give his own personal tour of the City of Bunbury before lunch! After a free afternoon, delegates attended a Council meeting before dinner in the Council function room.

On Wednesday, guests were taken on a tour of local Bunbury sites including Edith Cowan University, Malston Hill Lookout, the Simcoa Tei-en Japanese Garden, Bunbury Port and waterfront. After lunch at Vat 2 overlooking the marina and jetty, delegation members visited a new display home in Dalyellup and then went to view kangaroos at the Capel Golf Club.

A site visit to BHP Billiton in Collie was a first for a visiting Setagaya delegation and was designed

to highlight the industry and export capacity of the Bunbury region.

The Reaffirmation Signing Ceremony and Civic Reception held that evening featured Mayor Kumamoto and Mayor Smith both reaffirming and strengthening the friendship ties.

Other activities included a sing-along cruise on the Collie River followed by a BBQ lunch on the Eaton Foreshore, breakfast and wine tasting at Meadowbrook Estate in Boyanup and for the brave, a motor bike ride before departure for Perth.

Importantly this delegation met with the Japanese Consul General in Perth prior to departing for business and local government meetings in Sydney.

The importance of these five yearly delegations is to gain mutual knowledge and understanding of the infrastructure, services and facilities in Bunbury and Setagaya, in addition to building friendships.



FOOTNOTE: The Setagaya Mayoral delegation visited Bunbury in November 2007





2012

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

› Jenni Brown

On 28 February 2012, The City of Bunbury Council resolved to send the largest delegation thus far from Bunbury to Setagaya to witness the signing of the Reaffirmation between Mayor David Smith of Bunbury and Mayor Nobuto Hosaka of Setagaya. The delegation consisted of Mayor David Smith, Mayoress Tresslyn Smith, Chief Executive Officer Andrew Brien, Councillors Alfred Leigh (Chairman of the BSSCC), Karen Steele (Member of the BSSCC) and Ross Slater (Former member of the BSSCC), four community members of the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee, Pauline Vukelic, Valda Smith, Kazuyuki Shimada and Harry Ostendorf and two City of Bunbury Staff; Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jaimee Earl and the Executive Officer for the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee Jenni Brown.

It is important to note that community members financially contributed towards their travel expenses as they have generally done so in the past.

The official visit commenced Tuesday 12 June. Discussions were held at Seijo University with senior university managers, regarding their previous offer of two partial scholarships for Bunbury students, and at the Setagaya Art Museum regarding possible artist-in-residence and art exchanges. The Setagaya Waste Collection and Resources Recycling Centre “RE-SETA” located in the middle of the residential area next to the

Art Museum is a state-of –the-art facility which effectively receives waste from over 850,000 residences. In addition, waste and rubble from the aftermath of the March 13, 2011 is processed.

Other visits included a guided tour through Tsukiji Fish Market and partaking in a traditional tea ceremony at Happo-en Garden and viewing of Bonsai trees, some well over 500 years old. The views from the top of Tokyo Tower on a relatively clear and smog free day and Cerulean Tower at night highlighted the scale of the vast Tokyo metropolis.

A noteworthy highlight of the tour was our visit to Kyuden Elementary School.

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer were given “Rock Star Status” and students asked them to autograph pieces of paper, clothing and even the students’ arms.

The Reaffirmation Ceremony was held in the Assembly Hall. Both Mayors addressed the assembly, the Bunbury Delegation, media and the general public. The Reaffirmation Agreements were signed and witnessed by Bunbury’s Chief Executive Officer and Setagaya Chairperson of the Assembly. Afterwards the Assembly hosted a dinner at a nearby Chinese Restaurant.

Our visit to Setagaya was informative and educational. It gave the participants a better understanding of the Japanese culture, customs and views. Most importantly it helped strengthen the friendship ties between the cities, between staff and between colleagues.

FOOTNOTE: The Setagaya Mayoral delegation visited Bunbury in November 2012



# CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

## OF THE BUNBURY AND SETAGAYA SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

> Pauline Vukelic

### 1992

- Oct 12 Formal signing in Setagaya by Mayor Dr. E.C. Manea (dec), Deputy Mayor Graham Bricknell (dec)  
Nov 10 Formal signing in Bunbury

### 1993

- Apr Bunbury Councillor delegation visit to Setagaya  
Mar Setagaya team competed in Australian Masters & WA Dragon Boating State Titles in Bunbury  
June *Seishokai* Music Group guest performance at the City of Bunbury Eisteddfod Gala Concert

### 1994

- Mar City of Setagaya branch of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce & Industries delegation visit to Bunbury  
Setagaya runners compete in Bunbury Marathon

### May

### 1995

- May Setagaya runners compete in Bunbury Marathon  
Sept Setagaya photographic exhibition  
Oct Inaugural Bunbury student goodwill visit to Setagaya

### 1996

- May Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industries and City of Bunbury delegation visit to Setagaya.  
Setagaya citizens visit to Bunbury

### Sept

### 1997

#### Fifth Anniversary

- May Mayoral delegation to Setagaya for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony  
Photographic Competition and Exhibition  
Oct Setagaya Mayoral delegation visit to Bunbury for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony  
Nov Setagaya competitor in World Croquet Championships in Bunbury  
Nov Wagner Choir performance at BREC

### 1998

- Jul Jeweller and historian visit to Setagaya

### 1999

- Mar International Quilt Challenge - Setagaya quilters display quilt sample  
Jul Photographic Competition & Exhibition  
Sept Basketball visit to Setagaya  
Nov Successful bid to host Australian Sister Cities Conference at Darwin to host 2001 ASCA national conference

### 2000

- Aug Top Jazz Ballet group performance at Setagaya Summer Festival

### 2001

- Oct Photographic Competition & Exhibition  
Australian Sister Cities Conference jointly hosted by Bunbury and Busselton  
Winner: Best Overall Sister Cities Program  
Dec 'Mikoshi' (portable shrine) carried by exchange students and parents in Christmas Lights Parade

### 2002

#### Tenth Anniversary

- Jun Bunbury Mayoral delegation visit to Setagaya for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony  
Nov Setagaya Mayoral delegation visit to Bunbury for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony

### 2003

- Apr Private citizens visit to Setagaya  
Photographic Competition & Exhibition

### 2004/2005

- Dec Photographic Competition & Exhibition at Dolphin Discovery Centre

### 2006

- May Setagaya athletes compete in Bunbury Marathon

### 2007

#### Fifteenth Anniversary

- May Setagaya athletes compete in Bunbury Marathon  
Jun Bunbury Mayoral delegation visit to Setagaya for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony  
Jul National Sister Cities Day display, Bunbury Centrepoint  
Sept Photographic Competition & Exhibition at Bunbury Regional Art Galleries (BRAG)  
Oct Setagaya Mayoral delegation visit Bunbury

### 2008

- Jan Setagaya Community group visit to Bunbury  
May Setagaya athletes compete in Bunbury Marathon  
Sept "Koryu Toyo Kai" ikebana group and "Seishokai" music group guest demonstrations at Flower Designers Club of Bunbury annual show  
Dec Lantern Display at Christmas Festival

### 2009

- Apr Bunbury Flower Designers Club members visit to Setagaya for "Koryu Toyo Kai" annual ikebana exhibition at Meiji Shrine, Tokyo  
May Setagaya athletes compete in Bunbury Marathon  
Photographic Competition & Exhibition at Dolphin Discovery Centre

### 2010

- May Setagaya runners compete in Bunbury Marathon  
Oct Inseki Theatre group public & school performances  
Nov Bunbury athletes compete in Setagaya 246 Marathon

### 2011

- May Fukushima children compete in Bunbury Runner's Club Junior Accumulated Half Marathon  
May Setagaya athletes compete in Three Waters Marathon (formerly Bunbury Marathon)

### Sept

### Nov

- Photographic Competition & Exhibition at BRAG  
Bunbury runners compete in Setagaya 246 Marathon

### 2012

#### Twentieth Anniversary

- May Setagaya runners compete in Three Waters Marathon  
Jun Bunbury delegation visit to Setagaya for Re-affirmation Signing Ceremony  
Nov Bunbury athletes compete in Setagaya 246 Marathon

### 2013

### May

### Jul

### 2014

### Sept


### Nov

- Setagaya runners compete in Three Waters Marathon  
Photographic Competition & Exhibition at Lighthouse Inn

- Book launch  
Sister Cities Australia national conference at "The Cube" theatre, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre

#### NOTE:

- Bunbury student groups visited Setagaya in Sept- Oct every year commencing 1995
- Setagaya student groups have visited Bunbury in Oct-Nov every year commencing 1992
- Bunbury Goodwill Student book published each year 1997-2006

A blue card with a scalloped top edge, decorated with hand-drawn white stars and hearts. The stars vary in size, with a large central one. The hearts are simple outlines. The card is part of a larger display of similar cards.

I wish for everyone  
to be happy, healthy  
& Loved.



and  
every  
body  
to be  
happ