



CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
SISTER CITIES NEWSLETTER

“Zumin Pottery Show— Papua New Guinea”

Members of the Cairns Potters Club will be travelling to Zumin Village, one and half hours drive from our Sister City Lae in Papua New Guinea, along the scenic Markham Valley, to visit the Zumin Pottery Show on July 24 and 25 2010. The visitors will see the age old cultural traditions and lifestyle still practiced in the Markham Valley. Some of the pots have snake designs on them and there is an ancient story which may have inspired this unusual pottery. A family of renowned rainmakers who lived in Zumin claim that a porcelain dish was found just after some Europeans had passed through the area. They turned it over and rain started. When it was turned upside down the rain stopped. It is still believed that individuals have the power to make rain.



Cairns Regional Council Sister Cities

Lae	Papua New Guinea
Minami	Japan
Oyama	Japan
Riga	Latvia
Scottsdale	USA
Sidney	Canada
Zhanjiang	China

Information:

- For more information about Cairns Regional Council Sister Cities visit our website
- www.cairns.qld.gov.au/content/sisterCities

Australia Japan Society

AJS is a non-political, non-profit, non-racial and a non-sectarian organisation whose objectives are simply to "promote and encourage the friendship and cultural exchange between Australia and Japan".



During the December School Holidays of 2010, the Australia-Japan Society FNO will again sponsor two students from a Cairns School, to live as Home-stay and study within a Japanese Junior High School for a 4 to 5 week period. Cairns Year 9 / 10 / 11 students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship and be in Japan during December 2010 and January 2011. With this Scholarship, AJS are building further relationships with the Cairns Sister Cities in both Oyama City and Minami Town.

AJS Scholarship Student 2009 Rebecca Ann Coxon

Times gone by ..

Cairns has been home to many cultures since the town began in 1876, with large groups of South Sea (Pacific) Islanders, Chinese, Japanese, Sri Lankan (called Singhalese), Indonesians, Malaysians and Philipinos (called Manilla men), and every type of European nationality settling in area.

In the 1880s, the sugar industry was booming and there weren't enough "Kanakas" (South Sea Islanders) to do the work. Sugar plantation owners turned to Asians to fill the gap. Chinese workers were already in the country, and many worked for the sugar cane industry, especially doing the hard work of clearing the land. The planters also brought in Javanese (now in Indonesia), Singhalese from Ceylon (modern Sri Lanka), and especially Japanese, who came in from the late 1880s.

The Japanese had a strong government looking after their interests, so they were well treated. They had Japanese officials inspecting the plantations where they were employed. Japanese workers insisted on being fed Japanese food, getting paid £20 and keep, and having hot baths. A Consulate was established in Townsville to supervise the labourers.

Japanese workers were between 18-24 years old and were hired for 3 to 4 years. They were considered reliable, intelligent, skilful and sober. Unlike other cultures, Japanese were allowed into the country after the White Australia policy was put into practice in 1901, though in smaller numbers. They continued to work in the sugar industry until the 1930s. They were also used as labourers in the sugar mills as they were considered more capable than other non-white peoples. This was in keeping with the ideas about race of the day.

By 1939 there were fewer than 300 Japanese employed in the sugar industry, and today few people remember their contribution to the sugar industry of Queensland.





Heritage

CADCAI is the custodian of a large and significant collection of artefacts from the Lit Sung Goong Temple, which operated in Cairns from 1877 until 1964. The Lit sung Goong Chinese temple collection originated from Canton, circa 1887, to adorn the first Chinese temple to be built in Cairns. The timber and iron-roofed building was constructed at a cost £800 to serve the social and spiritual needs of the early community. Due to its forced sale in 1964, the entire collection of temple objects were salvaged by members of the Cairns Joss Society and later passed on to CADCAI. This significant collection of 19th century artefacts is one of the last tangible links to the early Chinese settlement of Cairns.

The Past

When the original site was sold, the intention of the community was to re-

house the artefacts in a new temple. This did not eventuate due to a variety of reasons and the bulk of the collection was taken to the Cairns Museum for safekeeping. The intricately carved temple altar, hanging canopy and Chinese deities formed the basis of a small display.

Many people in Cairns were unaware of its existence or the important role Chinese migrants played in the development of Cairns in the late 1800s and the community had little or no contact with the collection during this time. In 2002 the artefacts were brought to CADCAI's attention when six framed reverse glass paintings were found by museum workers in a bad state of repair. A Regional Arts and Development Fund grant was duly sought by CADCAI to restore the paintings. Since then, the history group of CADCAI has embarked on a fascinating journey of discovery and reconnection with its Chinese heritage and has been

actively establishing an updated inventory and management plan for the collection. The group's goal is to preserve the collection and the stories they hold for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



Our BIG SISTER Zhanjiang

Zhanjiang is located on the eastern coastline of the Leizhou Peninsula, is at the intersection of Guangdong Province, Hainan Province and Guangxi Province. Situated in the south-west of Guangdong Province, the city is adjacent to the South China Sea in the east, Beibu Gulf in the west, and separated from Hainan Province by Qiongzhou Strait. The city has a subtropical marine climate, with sufficient sunlight and rainfall. It is occasionally hit by typhoons in the month of May. With a population of 6.8 million, it is a populous city in Guangdong Province.

Zhanjiang has a 1,500-km coastline. Zhanjiang Port has an annual cargo throughput of 60 million tons, a 300,000-tonnage crude oil dock and a 200,000-tonnage iron ores dock. Zhanjiang Airport offers daily routes to Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Changsha, Haikou and other major cities. Litang-Zhanjiang Railway, Zhanjiang-Shanya Railway, Foshan-Maoming Railway all intersect in Zhanjiang, while Guangzhou-Zhanjiang Highway and Chongqing-Zhanjiang Highway join in the city.

Zhanjiang has rich talent resources. It has sixteen colleges and universities, and over forty research institutions, such as Zhanjiang University, Zhanjiang Ocean University and Zhanjiang Normal University. The natural resources in Zhanjiang are also rich; South China Sea has large oil and gas reserves, while the city itself has twenty-five kinds of mineral resources.

Multi-cultural Diary

15 Aug	Cairns Regional Council Cultural and Community Services	Seniors Week
22 Aug—19 Sep	Islamic Community Islamic Society of Cairns Abdul Aziz 07 4041 3572	Ramadan Begins (dates to be confirmed on sighting of the new moon)
1 Sep	Sikh Community Gurinder Mavi 0410 662 459	Parkash Adh Granth Sahib
16 Sep	Papua New Guinea Papua New Guinea and Wantoks Society Andy Flecher 0418 796 175	Independence Day
19-26 Sep	Multicultural Cairns Regional Council, Multi-cultural Planning & Development Officer, Hala Kattab 4044 3012 h.kattab@cairns.qld.gov.au	Peace Week



Sister Cities Annual Conference National Awards for 2010...

Each year an important feature of the Sister Cities Annual Conference is the National Awards Program. These awards aim to encourage excellence and innovation in sister city activities, to develop a permanent information resource for members and to provide a forum for information exchange.

This year the Cairns Regional Council have entered the National Awards in the category "Single Project".

The "*Face of a Sister City*" photographic exhibition held from 26 September to 15 October 2009 at The Tanks Art Centre in Cairns, featured photographs of the people and lifestyle of the Cairns region and that of our seven Sister Cities.

So that the photographs provided a snapshot of a moment in time, photographers in our Sister Cities and in the Cairns Region were invited to submit photographs taken during the same 24 period from 12 noon on Saturday 2 May 2009 to 12 noon on Sunday 3 May 2009.

Twenty photographs of the Cairns Region and twenty from each of our seven Sister Cities featured in the exhibition. All of the photographs featured in the exhibition were then made available to all our Sister Cities (on a DVD) and each Sister City is now able chose to exhibit the entire collection or a reduced collection as they wish, when and wherever it is appropriate for them.



For more information about Cairns Regional Council Sister Cities please contact Krystyn James, Office of the Mayor at k.james@cairns.qld.gov.au or telephone 07 4044 3083

