



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on Thursday 26 March 2026 commencing at 5:30 PM
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

Welcome by Deputy Mayor Jane Evans who declared the meeting open at 5:30 PM.

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Deputy Mayor Jane Evans (Chair in Mayor Bim Lange's absence), Janine Harding, Rolf Binder, Rick Lane (via Teams), Louise Hickinbotham (via Teams), Elaine Burridge and Milly Hoffmann.

Visitors – Lorna Schiller, Amber Perry (via Teams), Rowena Sloane

Apologies

Mayor Bim Lange, Sandie Simons, Vanesa Lambert, Scott Hazeldine

Not Present

Nil

Deputy Mayor Evans advised the Committee that the Mayor had received notification via email from Carol Dadds, Sister Cities Advisory Committee Member, on 13 March 2026 advising of her resignation from the Committee. The Mayor accepted Carol's resignation and thanked her on behalf of the Committee for her insight, enthusiasm, and thoughtful perspectives and wished her the best in the future.

Deputy Mayor Evans introduced Amber Perry, Barossa Young Ambassador 2025-26 to attend the meeting as a guest.

Deputy Mayor Evans introduced Lorna Schiller, from Kiwanis Club of the Barossa Valley and Barossa's Active Citizen of the Year to attend the meeting as a guest.

Deputy Mayor Evans introduced Rowena Sloane, Team Leader Arts and Culture, to present on the Barossa Creative Industries Centre.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

MOVED Milly Hoffmann

That the Minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee held on Thursday 22 January 2026 at 5:30 PM, as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.

SECONDED Rolf Binder

CARRIED SCACC/4

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Trade Development Working Group Update

Update on the current status of the Trade Development Working Group noting the report covering areas such as events, Main Street tourism, and what we can learn from our connection with Grapevine, Texas.

It was discussed that the Working Group would work within the Committee structure in developing the future strategy of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee.

ACTION

The Trade Development Working Group will be incorporated into the main Committee structure.

Elaine and Heidi to provide an update on conversations with Grapevine, Texas.

3.2 Mayor Tate – 50 years Celebration, Grapevine Texas

Mayor Tate's 50 years Golden Jubilee Celebration will be held in May 2026. The Mayor is unable to attend the event and has provided a formal written response to Mayor Pro Tem Slechta with his sincerest apologies.

A leather bound notebook has been purchased as a gift to celebrate Mayor Tate's 50 years in service as Mayor to Grapevine, Texas.

PW McCallum has asked the Mayor to provide a proclamation on Mayor Tate's achievements and significant details which will be presented to Mayor Tate during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

ACTION

Janine to assist the Mayor in writing the proclamation for presentation to Mayor Tate during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Catherine to arrange for Mayor Tate's gift to be sent to Grapevine, Texas to be presented to Mayor Tate on behalf on the Council and Committee during the celebrations.

3.3 Grapevine, Texas – Main Street Fest

As presented in the report, the Sister Cities Advisory Committee was provided with information on the 42nd Annual Main Street Fest from 15-17 May 2026, a family friendly festival that has become a timeless Texas tradition.

On this occasion, the event will include the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Mayor Tate, honouring 50 years of service to the City of Grapevine with the gifting of a statue of Mayor Tate, a Gala Dinner and the Golden Jubilee Community Picnic.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 DISCUSSION – FUTURE STRATEGIES OF THE SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sister Cities Program Manager initiated discussion around future strategies of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee including Delegation visits and the Working Groups including Student Exchange and Trade Development.

ACTION

Janine and Catherine will arrange a questionnaire to be distributed to the Committee for submission prior to our next meeting in May 2026.

4.2 VERBAL UPDATE - PEOPLE'S CHOICE TENT AND EVENT AT 2027 BAROSSA VINTAGE FESTIVAL

Following on from discussions regarding the success of the People's Choice Tent Event at Grapefest 2025, Grapevine Texas, it was decided that Rolf Binder and Amber Perry would continue to discuss the implementation of the event at the Barossa Vintage Festival in 2027.

Rolf and Amber provided the following potential ideas:

- Local, boutique wineries had been contacted with a view to determine the appetite for inclusion in the event.
- For noting - Grapefest, Grapevine purchase the wine directly from the wineries at wholesale cost, by way of assisting the wineries to participate.
- Ideally 2-3 sessions per day for approximately 45 minutes with a maximum of 50 tickets sold per session.
- End of the parade (location yet to be determined).
- Consideration to food offerings, security, amenities (toilets), liquor permit.
- Vendor space would be table with banner, minimal decorations on the table and controlled wine pourers.
- Amber was provided with the People's Choice Handbook by the Director of the People's Choice Tent in Grapevine.
- Look at combined marketing/mailling lists to help promote the wineries.
- Two trophies – *Most Popular Wine* and *Most Popular Winery*.

There was discussion around if the event required support from the Sister Cities Advisory Committee in terms of branding, merchandise and marketing. There was also discussion around if the event could be utilised as a fundraiser for future projects such as Student Exchanges.

ACTION

Rolf and Amber to further present the concept to the next committee meeting.

4.3 VERBAL UPDATE – RECIPROCAL STUDENT VISIT AND ARRABELLA HAAREN HOSPITALITY TRAINEESHIP

Study Tour Leader, Milly Hoffmann provided an update on the exchange program and noted that the announcement of the new Superintendent of Grapevine Colleyville Independent School District (GCISD) was yet to be finalised which was delaying the confirmation of the reciprocal visit proceeding in September 2026. Should the visit not be confirmed by the end of the current school term, 10 April 2026, it has been decided by David Marino, Principal and Rick Lane, Study Tour Leader, Nuriootpa High School, that the visit should be deferred to 2027 to allow sufficient time for planning.

Milly also noted that there had not been any information forthcoming in relation to the potential for Arrabella Haaren to arrange a hospitality traineeship in Grapevine, Texas.

ACTION

Janine to liaise with David Marino and Rick Lane regarding confirmation for September 2026.

In the event that September 2026 visit proceeds, Janine and Catherine to commence planning with Nuriootpa High School.

Janine offered to reach out to Arrabella Haaren and assist where possible.

5. DEBATE REPORT

5.1 BAROSSA YOUNG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR 2027 26/15608

MOVED Louise Hickinbotham

That Sister Cities Advisory Committee endorse the allocation of expenditure of \$3,500 from the Sister Cities Advisory Committee Budget for the provision of a financial prize to the 2027 Barossa Young Ambassador Program award recipient to be used to support travel to Grapevine, Texas during 'Grapefest' in September 2027.

SECONDED Milly Hoffmann

CARRIED SCACC/5

PURPOSE

The Committee is asked for approval to provide financial support by way of a prize to the Barossa Young Ambassador for 2027.

REPORT

Background

The Sister Cities Program Manager and Mayor Lange attended the 2025 Young Ambassadors Project Presentations on 19 March 2025 with the participants all presenting extremely well. It was decided by the Sister Cities Advisory Committee that the 2025 Young Ambassador award recipient would receive \$3,000 from the Sister Cities Advisory Committee under its delegation, to go towards flights to attend 'Grapefest' in Grapevine, Texas in September 2025, with the official Council Delegation.

The award was announced at Rockfords Wines during the Barossa Vintage Festival on 27 April 2025 with Mayor Lange, Martin McCarthy CEO, Rolf Binder and six officials from the Grapevine Delegation attending the awards. Mayor Lange and PW McCallum, Executive Director of the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau, presented a \$3,000 cheque to Amber Perry, who demonstrated a deep commitment to the community and was a very worthy recipient of this prize for 2025.

Amber Perry attended Grapevine with the other official delegates to perform her role as Barossa Ambassador. From the experience, Delegates from Grapevine have a keen interest in youth development and education and were particularly interested in the Barossa Vintage Festival's Barossa Young Ambassadors Program which they are seeking to implement into their 'Grapefest' program.

The request for financial support from the Committee for such a prize is aligned with the Committee's Terms of Reference (as per link in Supporting References below) and through the signed Accord with Grapevine outline the following:

The Committee will provide advice and support to Council, industry and the community to enhance Sister City relationships and programs and will actively undertake the facilitation of activities with the objective of nurturing and fostering the relationship and providing cross-cultural understanding, building connected communities, and generating mutual benefits for Sister Cities by:

- 2.1.1 Facilitation of the sharing of best practice and exchange of new ideas and successful experiences across a range of disciplines to improve capability and build more vibrant cities and local government authorities.
- 2.1.2 Fostering trade and investment initiatives that promote business development, provide accelerated access and open doors into key markets to connect our cities more effectively with buyers and sellers.
- 2.1.3 Promotion of each other's cities as visitor destinations, cross participation in festivals and events and facilitation of the exchange of destination marketing expertise and experience to enhance the tourism market intelligence of both cities.
- 2.1.4 Facilitation of education, cultural and sporting exchanges that empower our youth, support the education sector, celebrate our unique heritage, create opportunities for artistic expression and activate community participation.
- 2.1.5 Enhancement of each other's reputation and capacity to meet emerging policy issues facing our cities in addition to capitalizing on opportunities to explore innovations and improvements in science and technology, viticulture, rural and urban design, public infrastructure and sustainability.
- 2.1.6 Fostering friendship, mutual regard, and understanding among the citizens of our communities.

Introduction

Amber Perry represented herself as a true Barossa Ambassador and joined the official Council delegation to Grapevine, Texas in September 2025. As Deputy Chairperson of the Barossa Young Ambassador Committee, Amber has approached the Sister Cities Advisory Committee to ask for consideration in providing a prize for the Young Ambassador Program in 2027.

Delegates from Grapevine have a keen interest in youth development and education and were particularly interested in the Barossa Vintage Festival's Barossa Young Ambassador Program which they are now looking to implement into their 'Grapefest' program.

Amber prepared a brief regarding her experience for the Delegation report presented to Council at its November meeting:

What an incredible opportunity!

I cannot thank everyone involved enough for allowing me the opportunity to visit our Sister City in Grapevine, Texas

I was able to head over to Grapevine for their annual 'Grapefest', a celebration of all things wine and community.

A jam packed 4 days of learning, tasting and connecting.

2026/22

The opportunity to be involved in this experience holds a very special place in my heart. Not only have I made international connections I have deepened those connections within my own community. For this I am forever grateful. I hope to continue to learn more and expand my horizon into our diverse culture.

A big thank you to the City of Grapevine and many, many others. Because of their endless work I was able to see behind the scenes action of Grapefest, make connections and experience none other than Texan Hospitality.

I hope to bring all these experiences back to better myself, my career and all things Barossa.

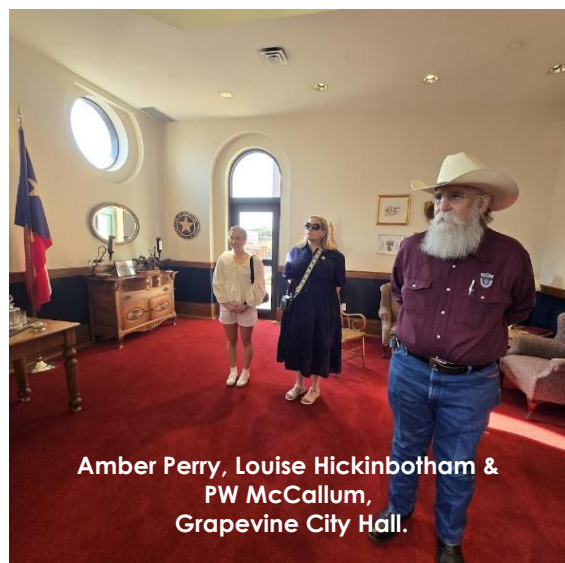
I can't wait to get back home and start new conversations with new and old friends and help continue to promote our wonderful home The Barossa Valley in all its cultural heritage and fantastic wine!

Thank you to The Barossa Council, City of Grapevine and everyone else far and wide who made this possible.

Thank you for your tireless work and everyone at The Barossa Council and everyone involved with the Barossa Young Ambassadors Program and Barossa Vintage Festival - thank you.

A trip of a lifetime!





Summary and Conclusion

Following the inaugural Sister Cities Advisory Committee support to the Barossa Young Ambassador to attend 'Grapefest' in September 2025, the Barossa Young Ambassador Program is seeking support from the Committee to supply a financial sum, determined by the Committee to assist with the prize for 2027 Young Ambassador Program.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Letter to Council - Barossa Young Ambassador Program Support 2027 

Supporting references

[Sister Cities Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference](#)

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

CS6 Community - To help the prosperity and wellbeing of the community. Community grants programs. Support for community groups – networking, advice, input to The Big Project

Legislative Requirements

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

As per the Sister Cities Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee has delegation to expend Council's approved budgeted funds subject to the Committee's budget allocation and Council's policies.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Supports the Sister Cities Advisory Committee Terms of Reference – Objective:

2.1.4 Facilitation of education, cultural and sporting exchanges that empower our youth, support the education sector, celebrate our unique heritage, create opportunities for artistic expression and activate community participation.

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

5.2 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 26/22038

MOVED Elaine BurrIDGE

That the Sister Cities Advisory Committee endorses the appointment Lorna Schiller and Milly Hoffmann as Community Representatives on the Sister Cities Advisory Committee and recommends that Council update to the Terms of Reference to reflect these changes.

SECONDED Rolf Binder

CARRIED SCACC/6

PURPOSE

For the Sister Cities Advisory Committee to endorse a recommendation to Council to make changes to the Committee Membership.

REPORT

Background

On 21 November 2023, pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council endorsed the establishment of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee including

adoption of the Committee's Terms of Reference for the legislative operation of the Committee and its members.

Introduction

Community members Ingrid Day and Carol Dadds have formally resigned from the Committee.

Discussion

Milly Hoffmann has recently moved employment and is no longer at Nuriootpa High School but still has a keen interest and active participation directly with Grapevine. Milly has requested that she remains on the committee as a Community Representative, not a representative of Nuriootpa High School. Please note Milly resides as a resident in the Barossa Council Area.

As there is a position available, Lorna Schiller from Kiwanis Barossa Valley has expressed an interest in joining the committee and given that she has been heavily involved with the success of the 2025 Study Tour as well as the active promotion of the Sister City relationship,

If the committee is supportive of the recommendation, the Committee's Terms of Reference will be required to be updated and presented to Council for endorsement.

Summary and Conclusion

The Sister Cities Advisory Committee is asked to support the recommendation so that this can be presented to Council for endorsement.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

Nil

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

That Sister Cities Advisory Committee endorses Lorna Schiller and Milly Hoffmann as Community Representatives on the Sister Cities Advisory Committee and recommend to Council including an update to the Terms of Reference to reflect the changes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required

6. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 BAROSSA CREATIVE INDUSTRIES CENTRE

Rowena Sloane, Team Leader Arts and Culture, presented on the Grapevine's heritage-led activations and the connections and learnings that could be achieved between Grapevine and the Barossa Creative Industries Centre attached at Appendix 1.

ACTION

Janine to provide Rowena with contacts and e-introductions.

7.2 REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BAROSSA VINTAGE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Discussion around the suitability of requesting a representative from the Sister Cities Advisory Committee to sit on the Barossa Vintage Festival Committee.

It was decided by the Committee that we would not request representation on the Barossa Vintage Festival Committee.

8. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28 May 2026 at 5:30 PM

9. CLOSURE

Deputy Mayor Evans declared the meeting closed at 6.38pm.

Confirmed at Sister Cities Advisory Committee Meeting on 28 May 2026

Date:.....

Chairperson:.....

Appendix 1

Heritage-led activation



Hybridised cultural facilities



Artist-led and Visitor Participation Experiences



VETRO GLASSBLOWING STUDIO & GALLERY



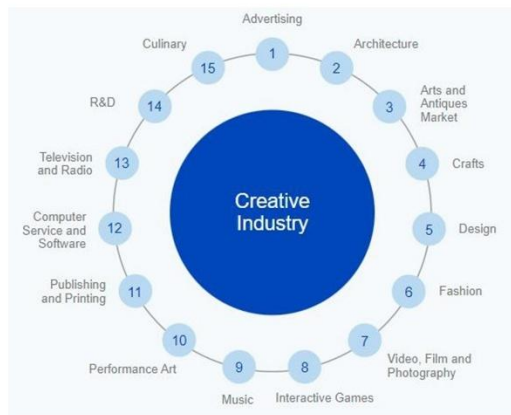
BUBBLE PLANET

Immersive contemporary 'hook' experiences

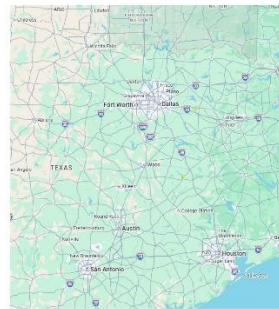
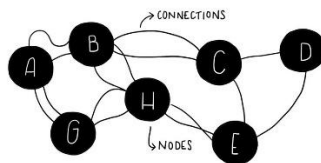


Festival and Tourism integration



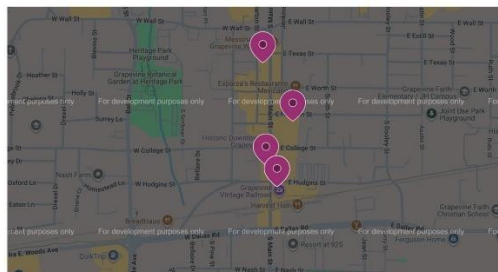


Grapevine + BCIC



GALLERY CONNECTIONS

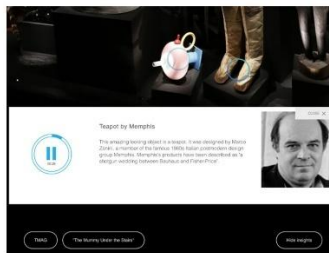
[Vetro Art Gallery and Glassblowing Studio](#)
[Touch of Paris Art Studio](#)
[Giddens Gallery of Fine Art](#)
[RTown Gallery](#)
[IPAT Museum of Porcelain Art](#)
[Grand Gallery](#)
[Tower Gallery](#)
[Meow Wolf Grapevine](#)
[Grapevine Mills](#)



CREATIVE SECTOR ENRICHMENT & CONNECTION



BAROSSA STORYBANK



CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

