

#### 4. WORLD PEACE BELL

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of an opportunity for Christchurch to be presented with a World Peace Bell.

##### **BACKGROUND**

As a result of Christchurch declaring itself a Peace City earlier this year the city is becoming known internationally for its initiatives to progress this. The World Peace Bell Association is one of those which have learned of the Council's declaration and also that it is considering the development of a Peace Park in the central city. The Association has expressed interest in discussing the possibility of donating a Peace Bell for the park.

##### **WHY CHRISTCHURCH IS BEING CONSIDERED**

Following a visit to Japan to gather information for a series of articles which later appeared in The Press, Features Writer, Roy Sinclair struck up an association with Mr Keizo Ohaski, Director of Foreign Operations of the World Peace Bell Association, after visiting the site of one of the bells in northern Japan. Roy is planning to bicycle the length of Japan in 2004 to promote peace and plans to write a book about his journey. When the World Peace Bell Association found out about this trip, and also that Christchurch has declared itself a Peace City, contact was made with Roy to discuss the possibility of Christchurch being an appropriate site for a bell. The Association usually prefers to site them in capital cities.

In 1988 an offer of a bell was made to Wellington City but with the political climate at that time, insufficient funds or sponsorship and the lack of a suitable site, meant that the offer was not taken up.

##### **THE ASSOCIATION'S AIMS**

- To eliminate the scourge of war which brings untold sorrow and misery to mankind from the world, without distinction as to politics, religion, creed, ideology or race.
- To provide great support and assistance for those countries where people are suffering from hunger and have fallen into extreme poverty, and for those countries where there are sufferers affected by a natural calamity.
- To develop world peace by exchanging views with people of all countries and through sharing culture and education.

##### **ABOUT THE BELL**

The first World Peace Bell, which was made from coins and medals from United Nations member nations (including New Zealand), was presented to the United Nations headquarters in 1954 and by January 2001 World Peace Bells had been installed in 19 countries and 21 capital cities have selected a site for a bell to be installed.

The bell is 1.05 metres in height, 600 millimetres in diameter and weighs 365 kilograms. The housing for the bell would need to be approximately 4-5 metres in height and the foundation approximately 5 metres square.

The bell would be donated to the city by the World Peace Bell Association.

##### **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

A Christchurch Chapter of the World Peace Bell Association would need to be set up. The chapter typically includes prominent business people and associations with support from the local authority. Roy Sinclair is willing to lead a recruitment drive for members and the Christchurch Branch of the Peace Foundation have expressed their willingness to provide support. Roy will also liaise with the Association on the formation of the Chapter. At this stage it is unknown how much, or what form, of support is required from the local authority but the impression given is that the project simply requires the Councils endorsement.

The Christchurch City Council would be responsible for the transportation of the bell from Japan to Christchurch. There is no budget provision for this and it is envisaged that sponsorship could be sought for this.

The Council would also be responsible for the installation and housing of the bell on the agreed site. An enthusiastic expression of interest in this part of the project has been received from Christchurch Rotary and may be considered as a special project for their anniversary in 2004/05.

**Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee supports, in principle, the continued negotiations with the World Peace Bell Association to endeavour to secure a Peace Bell for Christchurch.
  2. That sponsorship be sought for transportation of the bell.
  3. That the Mayor writes a letter in support of continued negotiation with the World Peace Bell Association.

**Deputy Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** The staff recommendations be supported and that further information on the installation costs, placement and funding provisions brought back to the Committee.