

4. SISTER CITY NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL CONVENTION

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the details of the Sister Cities New Zealand Annual Convention which is to be held in Masterton from 3–6 April 2003 and to seek approval for elected member representation at the convention.

The focus for this year's Convention is "Conference in the Country" and the conference focuses on New Zealand–China relations. Different sections within the programme will focus on sport, cultural, education, private sector business and local government exchange programmes. The conference will also include a presentation on "Economic Benefits of Sister Cities", based on the recent findings of an Institute of Economic Research study into Sister Cities.

Presentations are to be made by speakers including Pansy Wong, Associate Professor Alex Chu, Professor Bill Willmott, a number of local government elected members and staff, and also Christopher Butler, Executive Officer of Asia 2000.

The cost of an elected member attending the convention is as follows:

Registration	\$479
Accommodation (3 nights)	\$300
Meals – additional to programme	\$100
Airfares	\$200
Total	\$1,079

In her previous role as Chair of the International Relations Subcommittee, Councillor Keast has taken an active interest in all facets of sister city activity, in particular steering the working party that developed the Strategy for Sister Cities. In her role as Deputy Mayor, Councillor Keast has responsibility for hosting, on behalf of the Mayor, many Chinese groups coming into Christchurch and therefore this conference will provide additional useful information on future opportunities through international relations with China.

Councillor Lesley Keast is the chairperson of the organising committee for the New Zealand Sister Cities 2004 Convention, which will be held in Christchurch in March 2004.

Recommendation: That Deputy Mayor Lesley Keast be registered to attend the Sister Cities New Zealand Convention in Masterton from 3-6 April 2003.