

## 8. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION

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Corporate Plan Output: International Relations, Civic and Ceremonial	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the recent activities undertaken by the International Relations Section from April to June 2000. This report is provided on a quarterly basis.

### 1. OVERVIEW OF SISTER CITIES PROGRAMME

#### **Sister Cities General**

- *Business Plans:* Sister city committees have developed annual business plans, with key performance indicators, based on the Council reporting system, for the first time this year. The committees have developed these plans in order to show the value the relationships add to the community through culture, education, arts, youth and friendship activities, international understanding, sport, and economic development. The plans have identified the actual costs of the activities generated, and have resulted in the committees seeking additional funding from Council.
- *Sister Cities Working Party:* With the completion of the draft of the Sister Cities Working Party strategy for Christchurch's Sister Cities, a seminar meeting is now proposed to discuss the document with the Community Services Committee.
- *Sister Cities Flag Display:* The national flags of Christchurch's six sister cities were installed in the roundabout at the corner of Orchard Road and Memorial Avenue during the last week of June, along with the New Zealand flag. Appropriate signage is yet to be completed. This display will give a high profile to inbound visitors of Christchurch's sister cities and it is proposed that the roundabout become known as 'Sister Cities Roundabout'.
- *Sister Cities' Gardens at the Halswell Quarry Park, Kennedys Bush Road:* The gardens will be officially opened on 17 February 2001 by the Governor General Sir Michael Hardie Boys and it is likely that delegations from most, if not all, sister cities will attend, including the Mayors in a number of cases.
- *Children's Art Gallery 'ArtZone', Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA):* Following the huge success of the four sister cities children's art exhibitions, the gallery is now approaching sister city committees regarding three exhibitions for 2001. It is proposed to exhibit artworks from high school students of the sister cities of Songpa, Kurashiki and Seattle, alongside those of Christchurch students.

## **Christchurch-Adelaide Sister City Committee**

- ‘Postcards from Christchurch’, a 46-minute documentary on Christchurch and Canterbury screened during prime viewing time on Saturday, 1 April, to a huge audience in South Australia. The documentary for the popular ‘Postcards’ series was shot last November, in a project initiated and facilitated by the Sister City committee, with the assistance of Christchurch & Canterbury Marketing and members of the local tourism and hospitality industry.
- The committee assisted Penelope Herbert, Features Editor of ‘Essential Australia’, a national magazine, with local contacts when she visited Christchurch in May. A 32-page feature on Canterbury will appear in the July edition.
- The committee underwrote Carla Potter’s visit to Adelaide, as the only New Zealander present at the Music Business Adelaide conference. She presented a paper ‘Touring and Communication in New Zealand’, and sat on a seminar board that discussed Women in Music. The conference attracted over 200 top industry delegates from Australia. Carla gained a unique opportunity to network at an international level and liaise with international touring companies based in Australia. The result is that local companies interested in touring acts now having the opportunity to network with Australian bands and vice versa.
- The inaugural Sister Cities World Environment Day ‘virtual debate’ took place on 2 June. Christ’s College, the region’s top high school debating team, represented Christchurch against Christian Brothers’ College, Adelaide’s top high school debating team. Christ’s College were voted the winners in the live video conference debate, opened by Adelaide’s new Lord Mayor and Christchurch’s Deputy Mayor. An annual virtual debate has been proposed.
- The South Australian Greyhound Association have held discussions with the Christchurch Greyhound Racing Club and has proposed holding a Christchurch-Adelaide Sister City Greyhound Race, at the time of the Australian Sister Cities Association Conference 2-6 October 2000 in Adelaide.
- The Sister City Committee endorsed a visit by 52 local people to Adelaide in April for the Clipsal 500 V8 supercar race. Due to the success of the trip, the committee is endorsing another group from New Zealand for the New Year’s Eve Le Mans race in Adelaide.
- Following the recent visit of the South Australian Women’s Hockey Team and the encouragement of the sister city committee for an annual challenge, 36-40 players and officials from Canterbury men’s and women’s hockey teams will play in South Australia in October. They will be hosted by the South Australian Institute of Sport.
- Chairman Vincent Chew was asked to address the Ashburton District Council in April about Christchurch’s sister city relationship with Adelaide.

### **Christchurch, England Sister City Committee**

- An 18 student and three teacher contingent from Linwood High School have returned from a UK and European tour. The group were home hosted during their nine day stay in Christchurch, Dorset and attended Twynham Comprehensive School for several days. The student exchange is to become a biennial event.
- A member of the Christchurch Youth Council, Daniel Rooney, took the opportunity to promote the Christchurch Youth Council, while visiting with Christchurch's Mayor. This inspired Christchurch, Dorset to consider sending two Youth Advocates here to learn how Christchurch's Youth Council operates. The Mayor of Christchurch, Dorset has also invited a Youth Councillor, expenses paid, to return to Christchurch, Dorset to help establish a similar youth council in their town.
- The Millennium 'Fair Play' shield, donated by Christchurch, Dorset, was presented to the Maori Studies Unit, Woolston School, in recognition of the cultural performances they have provided for visiting Christchurch, Dorset groups.

### **Christchurch-Gansu Friendly Relations Committee**

- Four high school students and a teacher visited China for four weeks during April, under the committee's education programme. On their return, a public meeting was held, at which they talked of their experiences.
- The Gansu Children's Art Gallery display at the Centre of Contemporary Art opened on 1 June and will run till 23 July. It contains 100 artworks from primary schools in Gansu, and the same number from Christchurch primary schools.
- The design of the gateway for the Gansu Sister City Garden has been completed.
- Chairman Bill Willmott was made an Honorary Member of the Sister Cities New Zealand movement, in recognition of his efforts over many years to promote friendly links between New Zealand and China.

### **Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee**

- A group of nine female students and a teacher from Kurashiki have been selected to take part in the Christchurch Goodwill Mission from 22 July – 7 August 2000. The students are to be home hosted during their stay and will attend local Christchurch high schools.
- A reciprocal visit to Kurashiki by a group of 14 students and two leaders is to take place from 18 September - 3 October. The participating students were selected from 35 applications received.

- Expressions of interest are currently being sought for an adult delegation to visit Kurashiki from 2 - 10 October. There will be opportunities for private business, and discussions with staff at City Hall will be arranged for those people interested. The visit will include some sightseeing and some formal functions.
- An offer has been received from Kurashiki City Hall to partly sponsor a gazebo and archway for the Kurashiki garden.
- Kurashiki children's artworks were exhibited at the Centre of Contemporary Art from 29 April - 23 May. One hundred artworks from primary schools in Kurashiki and the same from Christchurch primary schools were displayed.
- Mount Pleasant Primary School has been officially recognised as the sister school of Dai Yon Fukuda School, Kurashiki, with the presentation of a certificate by the Deputy Mayor. Planning is underway for teacher and student exchanges in 2001.

### **Christchurch-Seattle Sister City Committee**

- Progress is being made on the programme for the Mayor's visit to Seattle in October. Canterbury Development Corporation is organising the business programme. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and some committee members will join the visit.
- Two students from Christchurch Boys' High School are intending to travel to Seattle in October with the delegation. During the visit they will be making a documentary comparing the differences in high school education in the two cities.
- The two students recently chosen as part of the annual Seattle Scholar exchange programme will be in Seattle for three weeks during September/October and will meet with Mayor Garry Moore during his visit to Seattle.
- Seattle children's artworks were exhibited at the Centre of Contemporary Art from 1 - 24 April. One hundred artworks from primary schools in Seattle and the same from Christchurch primary schools were displayed.

### **Christchurch-Songpa-Gu Sister City Committee**

- Due to the recent elections in Songpa-Gu projects have been on hold pending the election of a new Mayor. Mayor Lee You Taek was elected to office on 8 June.
- Committee members Charlie Lee and Laurie Stack, President of the Korea War Veterans, separately visited Songpa-Gu in June.
- Korean and Christchurch children's artworks displayed at the Centre of Contemporary Art, have been sent to Songpa-Gu for an exhibition there.

- A local Korean artist has almost completed one of the sculptures for the Songpa-Gu Garden, and discussions have taken place regarding an appropriate entranceway.

### **Carlos Maduela, Mozambican student**

- Carlos Maduela, a 21 year old high school teacher from the city of Inhambane in Mozambique, arrived in Christchurch in April. His visit has come about through discussions between Vicki Buck, Councillor David Close and Jonathan Fletcher and officials in Inhambane in 1995. The visit costs have been carried by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Christchurch College of English and local Lions Clubs.
- At this stage Carlos will be in Christchurch until December, during which time he will study English at Christchurch College of English. The intention is for him to have as many different experiences as possible during his time here. He will also speak at various schools and service clubs.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACTIVITY**

A total of 12 delegations visited Christchurch City Council from April to June 2000. The delegations comprised either councillors, mayors and senior local government officials, or university students. The visits included both in-house presentations and site visits. The delegations ranged from one to 60 people, with a total of 175 people involved.

The breakdown of the visits, by country, is as follows:

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Visits</b>
China ... ..	5
Korea ... ..	4
Japan ... ..	2
Thailand ... ..	1
South Taranaki, New Zealand	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

## **3. CIVIC AND CEREMONIAL**

### **Citizenship Ceremonies**

This year, 832 people became New Zealand citizens at four citizenship ceremonies.

### **Civic Awards**

Nominations will be called in July for likely individual and organisation recipients for 2000 Civic Awards.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That a seminar meeting date be set to discuss the Sister Cities Working Party Strategy.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.