

### 13. SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH INHAMBANE/MAXIXE: MOZAMBIQUE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Relations Manager	<b>Author</b> Dave Adamson
Corporate Plan Output: Sister City Relationships	

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of this relationship.

#### BACKGROUND

In 1993, the proposal to have a linkage with a community in a least developed country came from discussions at a joint meeting of our six Sister Cities committees. Following a visit to Mozambique by Mayor Vicki Buck, Councillor David Close and Director Jonathan Fletcher, to assess the feasibility of Christchurch establishing a relationship with the cities of Inhambane and Maxixe, twin cities situated either side of a large tidal estuary in southern Mozambique, they reported to the Council, recommending a sister city relationship with these cities. The project was approved by the Council, but on the basis that no ratepayer funds would be contributed to aid projects with Inhambane and Maxixe.

It was quickly realised communications were going to be the biggest problem in the successful forging of the link. To help overcome this, it was decided to bring a resident of one of these cities to Christchurch to study for six months to a year, as a practical means of support for the link. It was felt this would be not only useful for the student, and of course his or her city, but would also mean there would be someone in Inhambane or Maxixe with first-hand experience and knowledge of Christchurch. To achieve this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) agreed to pay the return airfare and tuition fees during the person's time at the language college in Christchurch, and the language college agreed to meet the homestay costs. The payment of a weekly allowance was managed by a local Rotary Club.

New Zealand High Commission staff in Pretoria agreed to help in the selection of a suitable person. After interviewing, they recommended a 21 year old teacher called Carlos Maduela.

#### CARLOS MADUELA

Carlos arrived in Christchurch on 29 April 2000, and quickly settled into the language college. He had a reasonable standard of English when he arrived, which was an advantage. He was computer illiterate, and on-going free weekly individual tuition was arranged with a local recent South African immigrant, Jo Salm, who was born and raised in Mozambique. Carlos and Jo have formed a really close relationship; Carlos relates to him very well, and Jo has been amazed at the progress Carlos has made. Jo is now working on obtaining a laptop, at no cost, which Carlos will be able to take home with him.

Since April he has also had many outings around Canterbury; Akaroa, Hanmer, country A and P shows, etc. We were also able to arrange two weeks in Wellington for him over the Christmas/New Year period, where he was home-hosted by Kirstin Forsyth, a trustee with the African Centre. A number of primary school visits are arranged for him for early February, when he will talk to both pupils and teachers, as well as a visit to a high school, where he will be able to study teaching methods. Before he returns home in late February, he will spend a few days in Dunedin and Queenstown. He will be home-hosted in both cases, and in Queenstown will be taken fishing by a guide, at no cost. All of these activities have helped improve his English skills, and broadened his horizons and knowledge of our country and its culture. Carlos is a very intelligent young man with real future potential and leadership skills. He will go home with a range of wall posters of both Christchurch and Canterbury, as well as an array of information material on the area. In addition, he will also be supplied with a quantity of stationery to use in his school. At the completion of his time at the language college in mid January, a comprehensive report was provided on what he had done and achieved. A marked improvement has been noticed in his English.

With his increased knowledge and skills, and the heightened awareness of Christchurch this will bring in Inhambane and Maxixe, his experiences will be of real value to the development of Mozambique. In addition, his time here has raised the awareness of the citizens of Christchurch about the African continent. As Mozambique is now a member of the British Commonwealth, the teaching of English there is increasing.

It needs to be recorded that both MFAT and Save the Children New Zealand have expressed considerable pleasure and appreciation of the lead this Council has taken in seeing this project through to date. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria have expressed an interest in some form of on-going support for Carlos, once he returns to Inhambane. The details of this have not yet been decided; they will debrief him when he arrives in Pretoria, and from there one of their officials will drive him back to Inhambane. The level of their support for this project can be judged from that.

## **KEY BENEFITS TO CARLOS MADUELA AND CHRISTCHURCH**

- Considerably enhanced English language skills.
- A good level of computer skills.
- A broad understanding of New Zealand culture, and a particular knowledge of Christchurch.
- Carlos' experience here will help young people in Mozambique to become better educated, and heighten their awareness of the outside world. For Mozambique to progress, this is crucial.
- A planned link between high schools in each city.
- An increased knowledge of Mozambique by Christchurch citizens.

## **CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT**

The objective is to continue this project on an annual basis, and to pursue the enormous value of it to both cities. To ensure its continuation, the following is proposed:

1. That the project occur on an annual basis.
2. That the project apply to only one student annually.
3. That the project be for an English language course of 30 weeks' duration.
4. That the suitable student be chosen in conjunction with MFAT through our High Commission in Pretoria, and Save the Children New Zealand. The selection criteria are to include:
  - The aim should be to select a mature person
  - The person must be committed to returning to Mozambique
  - The person must be committed to making a significant impact on the good governance of the province
  - The person does not necessarily need to be a teacher (judgement to be used)
  - The successful applicant needs to have a reasonable level of English language skill
5. That Christchurch City Council and Save the Children New Zealand be joint sponsors. The approximate cost is estimated to be \$25,000 annually.
6. That SCNZ make the application to MFAT and seek other support money.
7. That, if this project goes ahead, a student be brought to Christchurch from Inhambane or Maxixe for the start of the 2002 academic year.

**Recommendation:** That the Committee endorse the concept of this project in principle for an initial period of three years, with support through the International Relations Section, and that it work with MFAT and Save the Children New Zealand to secure funding.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** For discussion.