



SISTER CITIES

NEW ZEALAND

Connecting people globally for peace and prosperity

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

NOTICE FROM THE BOARD

- Regrettably the 2020 Annual Conference in Ashburton has been cancelled due to the impact from COVID-19.
- The 2021 Annual Conference to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of SCNZ's establishment will be held in Wellington 15th-16th April.

COVID-19 and Racism 2020 - Statement from Sister Cities International Chairman and President/CEO

We are greatly saddened and angered by recent events in our country. Protests continue across the U.S. and around the globe highlighting the systemic racism and prejudice that have plagued our nation for far too long.

The senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and no doubt, many others whose names we don't know, remind us that we still have so far to go. Our hearts break for the victims. Our hearts break for their families. Our hearts break for our communities and our world.



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

At the core of Sister Cities International is the belief that peace can be obtained through people-to-people and sustained community-to-community connections based on mutual respect and understanding. This message is more important now than ever before. We are at a precipice and our communities must now come together

to answer the calls for social justice and reform.

Now is not the time for us to remain silent. Now is the time for us to lean in and open up dialogue around what is happening in our cities. It is only by encouraging discussions around institutional racism and ethnic inequity that we will begin to see the change that our communities are demanding.

Sister Cities International is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We stand in solidarity with our Black community and we will continue to promote peace, respect

and mutual understanding within our local communities and with our sister cities around the world.

Ron Nirenberg, Chairman of Sister Cities International & Mayor of San Antonio, Texas

Leroy Allala, President and CEO of Sister Cities International

Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society hosts fortnightly radio show 'OARFM'

By Simon Vare, Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society

'Kilts and Kiwis' is annual fortnightly radio show from Dunedin on Otago Access Radio created by Marion O'Kane and Simon Vare from the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society, on every Friday fortnightly until the end of November.

Members of the Society, and wider Scottish community explore the connections between Dunedin, Edinburgh and Scotland, culminating in November's St Andrews Day Celebrations in the Octagon. This year's will be held on Sunday 29th November 2020. (Continued on next page)

Right: Jock Walton playing button accordion live on air with co-host James Macandrew



Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society hosts fortnightly radio show 'OARFM' - continued...

The show contains lots of chat, music, history and giveaways, and is proudly supported by Dunedin City Council Events, Community Development and Harraways.

Marion and Simon would be happy to hear from any other Sister City groups with Scottish connections or activities that they run over the year - please contact Simon on 027 440 3058.

OARFM on Otago Access Radio 105.4FM and 1575AM

Every fortnight Friday from 11am or via live stream or podcast (see website for details)

oar.org.nz/kilts-and-kiwis

facebook.com/DunedinEdinburghSisterCitySociety



'Kilts and Kiwis' radio show features Scottish music, interviews and regular Harraways product giveaways.



The Proclaimers with members of Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society before their Dunedin Regent Theatre show.

Mihara announces "Kia Ora Square" naming

By Toni Grace, Palmerston North City Council

Mihara City has announced that they will be naming their new downtown development "Kia Ora Square" in recognition of the city's relationship with Palmerston North.

Scheduled to open in late July, Kia Ora Square will be a central city hub, located in front of Mihara train station and connecting to the city library, plaza, a hotel and a number of commercial facilities.

The name was selected through a public competition, with over 700 entries made from around the country. The winning submission - Kia Ora Square - was suggested by Mei, a 13-year-old Mihara high school student.

In the submission, Mei noted that "Kia Ora Square" would be a good name for the development because it acknowledges the city's connection to Palmerston North, New Zealand, and will also be a

meeting hub where people greet, gather and deepen their friendships.

Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith expressed his delight at the name.

"The deeper meaning behind the expression "Kia ora" is to wish someone good life and health, so I hope that Kia Ora Square will serve as a special place of union, vitality and wellbeing for the people of Mihara."

Mihara and Palmerston North have enjoyed community exchange for well over a decade and formalised this relationship at the 2019 Sister Cities NZ conference last March.



Left: The logo for Kia Ora Square to be opened in Mihara in July.

Sister City donates 10,000 face masks to Palmerston North

By Toni Grace & Sandra Crosbie, Palmerston North City Council

Palmerston North's Chinese sister city, Guiyang, donated 10,000 face protection masks to Palmerston North's COVID-19 response effort in a show of global friendship and cooperation.

The distribution of the masks was managed by the Palmerston North Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). They have been used where there was an identified need for frontline workers or people in the city requiring protection.

"We appreciate the generosity of the donation of masks and the spirit in which they were sent," said Palmerston North City Emergency Operations Centre Controller Tom Williams. "It's been comforting to know we have this supply on-hand to meet our needs." In a letter to Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith, Guiyang Mayor Chen Yan said,

"The epidemic respects no boundaries and is the common challenge for all humankind.

We will overcome difficulties and donate some medical supplies to Palmerston North within our power, to express our support."

Guiyang is the capital city of Guizhou Province in southwest China and has been Palmerston North's sister city since 1992. The relationship between the cities stemmed from an agricultural science cooperation between Massey University and Guizhou University in 1982, with ongoing environmental and agricultural academic collaboration continuing between our regions over the decades.

"This generous gesture from Guiyang demonstrates the enduring friendship between our cities and the value of Palmerston North maintaining strong global relationships", PNCC International Relations Manager Toni Grace says.

In February, Mayor Smith sent a letter of support to Mayor Chen Yan and a video message of support to the people of Guiyang during the height of their lockdown. Youth volunteers from the Palmy Global Ambassador programme helped to make lanterns with sister city messages of support for Guiyang to be part of Palmerston North's Festival of Cultures lantern parade.



Mayor Grant Smith and PNCC International Relations Manager, Toni Grace, thank Guiyang for their mask donation.

China New Zealand education programmes

By Emeritus Associate Jan Fitz-Gerald, President of Institute of Global Engagement New Zealand and founder of the China New Zealand Youth Leadership Summit

Kia ora koutou katoa. The team at IGENZ has been very busy during lockdown working with international partners and designing new programmes.

China New Zealand Youth Leadership Summit 2021

We are pleased to advise that the SCNZ award winning Youth Leadership Summit is planned for July 12 – 22, 2021 in China for emerging leaders from senior high school. This could not be a better time for our future leaders to reflect, share and discuss the impact of COVID-19 has had and how the world responded.

The summit days will be in Qingdao and hosted again by the Qingdao Education Bureau and Foreign Affairs Office. Special topic days of culture, history, ancient arts and crafts, technology and innovation will be in Beijing, Shenzhen and Zhuhai. This is also open to schools from Qingdao's sister cities in the USA, Australia and Canada.

Sister School Agreements

School relationships, study tours and recruitment efforts usually always begin with a sister school agreement. This

is a highly regarded requirement by the Education Bureau in Chinese cities and supports each school's efforts to work with and visit schools abroad. We currently have eight schools at junior and senior high level from Shenzhen and Qingdao seeking New Zealand school interest. All schools have been assigned to us by the local Education Bureau and are of outstanding quality.

Study group tours to China

From 2021, IGENZ is offering customised educational study tours for school groups and individual students to China to gain a better insight into the hearts and minds of the Chinese people, their country and culture.

Principals' Visit Programme, Sister Schools

A School Principals' Exchange Programme to China is pending final approval and support for hosting. This is a new school relationship programme where Principals spend quality time in assigned friendship schools to ensure long term outcomes for students are met and meaningful reciprocal recruitment and relationship activities delivered.



Left: Jan Fitz-Gerald at Qingdao No. 67 School with student delegates and school Chairman and Vice Principal who attended the 2019 Leadership Summit held in Christchurch. Photographer: Amy Zhou, Qingdao office of Shinyway Study Tours.

Right: NZ delegation visit to Shenzhen Bao'an Education Bureau, Bao'an. Led by Miranda Herbert, Regional Director of Education, Greater China. NZ Embassy Beijing. Accompanied by Shelly Xu from ENZ Shanghai and Jan Fitz-Gerald. Photographer: Shenzhen Bao'an Education Bureau member of staff.

