



Christchurch / Kurashiki Sister City Committee



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Annual Report of Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee For Period 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003

Committee

The Committee has met 9 times during the year, with an average attendance of 8 members. The wide ranging experiences of the Committee members has again enabled a good variety of ideas to be formulated on the proposed and actual programmes. **However, we will continually need to add** to our number some 'fresh blood' from people who wish to help with the activities and carry the banner into the next 5-10 years. Together, the members willingly contribute what time they can in their busy lives towards the work of the committee and the visiting delegations.

Committee Membership for 2003

Chair:-	Newton Dodge	Deputy Chair:-	David Bolam-Smith
Treasurer:-	Kay Mason	Co-Ordinator:-	Barbara August
Members:-	Cr Ishwar Ganda	Malcolm Harris	Shoko Macfarlane
	Ken Miyazawa	Richard Paton	Masanori Nishiyama
	Julie Sakurai	Consul, Yamada Eiichiro	

2002/2003 Programme

Inbound Students

The year under review started with the **July/August 2002** Student Delegation of 9 students and one leader from Kurashiki. The groups itinerary was again managed under contract, by Newton Dodge and the visitors were hosted by 7 High Schools. It worked well again to have the students spread around the city. Overall, a very balanced programme was planned and the budget adhered to. They had 5 days at school and 5 days visiting the local sights. These included the Antarctic Centre, Willowbank, Springfield Farm, Arthurs Pass, Tenpin Bowls and a farewell party. Thanks to the committee members that did lend a hand and to the families and schools who hosted the families for the two weeks.

Outbound Students

In September 2002 we saw 14 students visit Kurashiki under the leadership of Richard Paton and Justine Smith. Richard had been to Kurashiki and other countries before with students, and this helped with his ability to pick the project up and run with it. The 14 chosen students were from 8 High Schools from throughout Christchurch. From their reports, they all

seemed to gain a considerable amount from the visit. Several have already played homestay host to other visitors from Kurashiki. In Kurashiki, they attended schools for 5 of the days and spent the remainder of the time on local sightseeing and a visit to Hiroshima Peace Park. They were again homestay hosted while in Kurashiki.

Kurashiki Ensemble Visit

In **March/April 2003** we hosted the first of several 30th Anniversary projects. Because of the SARS Scare, the numbers were reduced to 80 at the last minute, but the total group had a very great experience for the 7 days in Christchurch.

The group stayed in the YMCA and the Windsor Hotel while in Christchurch. They did 4 afternoons of rehearsals and a major Combined Concert in the Aurora Centre, with the Christchurch Youth Orchestra. This concert was played to a full house of 700 people. The group spent 2 further days on visiting Arthurs Pass and a farm with jet boats and a day trip to Akaroa.

Other Projects

Sister City Gardens

Our garden is part of the Halswell Quarry Garden Park, where the six sister cities and Christchurch City have formed a cultural garden of their city or country. When matured, the Kurashiki Garden will finally consist of a wide range of Japanese trees and plants as well as a Japanese style garden and features. Committee member David Bolam-Smith continues to be our committee link with the committee planning the park and gardens. The Kurashiki Sister City Committee has arranged and met the cost of the paving of the path to the gazebo and recently sought funding for the planting of **30 Cherry Trees** lining the new path.

Support for groups and visitors

The Committee has placed a high priority on supporting individual clubs, teams, schools and organisation who feel they will benefit from an exchange with a similar group in Kurashiki. The Committee can only offer a small contribution towards such visits, but can always use its influence to open doors for the visits or hosting.

Sister School link

Mt Pleasant Primary School continues to have its link with their sister school Daishi Fukuda School in Kurashiki. This project has taken off with the enthusiastic help of Committee member David Bolam-Smith. A delegation from Kurashiki visited Christchurch during the year and they are putting together a return visit for 10 people to visit Japan in September 2003.

The committee is still seeking expressions of interest from other schools in Christchurch who have an interested in a similar arrangement with a school in Kurashiki.

Plans for 2003/4

The relationship between Christchurch and Kurashiki continues to flourish during the remainder of 2003/04. Both Cities have put together their programme for celebrating the 30th anniversary of the link. These exchanges will consist of ballet, sculptors, inbound and outbound mayoral visits and delegations. The Kurashiki Youth Choral Group is planning to visit in March 2004 as the final part of the Anniversary programme and it is hoped that they will perform at the New Zealand Sister Cities Conference to be held here in Christchurch in late March.

Sister City Conference

In **April 2003** the 'NZ Sister City' Conference was held in Masterton. Newton Dodge represented our committee by attending, along with members of the CCC International Relations staff and some City Councillors. This is always an excellent opportunity to meet many people from similar backgrounds and chat with them during formal sessions and informal activities. The 2004 NZ Conference is being held in Christchurch and our Chairman, along with a group of staff and elected members of Council, are meeting regularly to put together a full and exciting programme for the visitors.

City Council Support

Our Committee continues to be indebted to the Christchurch City Council and the team in the International Relations Unit for their generous annual grant to the committee and for the back-up support from our co-ordinator Barbara August. Without this help, the committee would surely and quickly falter. A special thanks to Barbara August for her knowledgeable input into the relationship.

Thanks

My special thanks to Kay Mason who has regularly and accurately kept the Committee finances up to date. To my Deputy David Bolam-Smith for his enthusiasm for every task he plans, makes life more pleasurable. To the committee members who regularly attend the meetings and functions planned, we thank you for your support. A special thanks to those who have helped at functions and activities during the year.

The International Affairs Section of the Kurashiki City Hall, have always been very helpful and co-operative in their help with exchange groups. We are thankful for the personal work done by Bill Gaudry and the members of the team in their office.

For the Committee

Newton Dodge

Committee chair

Chairman:

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