

Calendar of Sister Cities Projects for 2006

JANUARY

Kurashiki Photomural Exhibition

An exhibition of 10 large photomurals displayed at the Christchurch Polytechnic's Administration building's atrium from January until March 2006. These 10 photomurals are from a larger exhibition of over 30 murals which Kurashiki holds each year. They are selected after a competition by local photographers. If this Polytechnic exhibition is deemed successful a full exhibition of the 2006 winning photomurals from Kurashiki will be brought to Christchurch for exhibition later in 2006.

Shandan Bailie School students to spend a year studying at Darfield High School

Two students from the Shandan Bailie School, Gansu arrived at Darfield high School and will study there for the full year. The main focus will be for them to improve their English and prepare for possible tertiary education in New Zealand.

FEBRUARY

'My Place' Exhibition to Adelaide

Exhibition of the highly popular *My Place* exhibition of 68 photographs, principally by photographer Bruce Connew, and accompanying texts that reveal the lives and ambitions of Christchurch, in the main foyer of the Adelaide Town Hall from 1 February to 17 March. The exhibition was opened by Lord Mayor Michael Harbison on Wednesday, 1 February.

Christchurch Sister Cities Young Artists Competition

International Christchurch Youth (ICY) have organized the second art competition for 13-18 years old with the theme 'What does Global Citizenship Look Like?'. Entries close 23 March for an exhibition at ArtZone, Centre of Contemporary Art 29 March – 21 April. The winning entry will be exhibited in the annual Sister Cities International Young Artists Competition 2005, Washington, USA, with the chance to win \$US300 and international exposure.

Christchurch teacher to spend 3 months teaching in Gansu

Christchurch teacher Robyn Woodham is in Lanzhou teaching at a local high school on a three month renewable contract from February in an exchange organized by the Christchurch-Gansu committee. Robyn will be the seventh teacher the committee has sent in a programme that our friends in China describe as the best part of our sister relationship.

Merrin School hosts Se Ryun visitors, 21-25 February

Merrin School hosted their fellow students, teachers and the new Principal of Se Ryun when they visited Christchurch. This followed Merrin's trip to Se Ryun in September 2005, so friendships were renewed and new friendships made.

Seattle delegation to Christchurch to celebrate 25th Anniversary

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Christchurch/Seattle sister city relationship, a delegation of 18 people led by Pat Grant, Vice President of the Seattle Christchurch Sister City Association, visited Christchurch. The group attended an anniversary ceremony at the Seattle Garden at Halswell Quarry Park, when the ownership of a carved totem and seat was officially handed over to the Christchurch City Council.

The group visited several schools, the Antarctic Centre, Deep Freeze and the Air Force Museum and attended an official dinner at the Canterbury Club.

ICY display at Riccarton Library opening

International Christchurch Youth Group (ICY) promoted the Sister cities Young Artists Competition and the opportunities for young people interested in joining ICY as part of the Riccarton Library Opening on 18 February.

MARCH

Korea Day celebrations in Christchurch, 1 March

To celebrate Korea Day (1 March), the Christchurch Korean Society hosted, for the first time in Christchurch, the World Strongman Ssireum Competition. Ssireum is a traditional Korean sport that dates back a hundred years. It involves two contestants attempting to throw their opponent to the ground.

The competition, along with a variety of other Korean entertainment by traditionally dressed Koreans, and a host of food stalls was held in Cathedral Square on Saturday, 4 March.

Culture Galore

International Christchurch Youth (ICY) display at 'Culture Galore', Ray Blank Park, Burnside 19 March, including the display of hundreds of children's painted handprints as the end of the 'Joining Hands Around the World' project, which started at Culture Galore 2005. The project involving young people contributing a painted handprint, with the handprints being joined in friendship with young people from Christchurch's Sister Cities. 13 Christchurch schools and 8 sister schools took part in the project as well as many hundreds of individual children.

'Education in Focus' was the theme of the Sister Cities Display at Culture Galore, highlighting the different sister school relationships and recent school exchanges.

It's Time to Talk with Herman McKinney from Seattle, ChristChurch Cathedral, 21 March

Herman McKinney, a notable community leader from Christchurch's Sister City Seattle, visited Christchurch to speak to local residents about race relations at ChristChurch Cathedral on Race Relations Day, 21 March.

During the mid-1990s Mr McKinney established a forum called 'It's Time to Talk', which was both the name and theme of the evening. Such was the success of the programme, McKinney was taken to South Africa by Nelson Mandela to implement it, and now Mayor Garry Moore is keen to see the programme up and running in Christchurch.

Art Exhibition 'What Does Global Citizenship Look Like?' 29 March – 21 April

International Christchurch Youth in conjunction with the Centre of Contemporary Art's ArtZone organized the 2nd Christchurch Sister Cities Young Artists Competition with the theme 'What Does Global Citizenship Look Like?'. Artworks from 13-18 year olds entrants and the artworks of last year's winners will be on display. The winner was Erin Jackson of St Margaret's College with 'More than a Badge'. Her artwork will be sent to the 'Sister Cities International Showcase of Young Artists 2006' in Washington DC to be exhibited as part of the Sister Cities International Conference 13-15 July 2006.

Kurashiki student exchange applications sought

14 year 10 (14-15 year old) students who wish to participate in this years **student exchange to Kurashiki** for two weeks from 29 September – 14 October 2006 are invited to apply for the Kurashiki Student Exchange. Schools are all sent details of the exchange and applications close in April. One of the students will receive a scholarship.

Sister Cities New Zealand Air New Zealand Awards 2006

Seven sister city project entries were submitted by Christchurch groups. The Disabled Exchange between Christchurch and Kurashiki was awarded 1st place in the 'Best Culture, Sport or Recreation project'.

APRIL

Outbound Disabled Persons visit

Two Christchurch students Stephen Krammer (17 years) and Kerri Bonner (18 years), their 2 caregivers and 2 disability advisers will travel to Kurashiki from 14-24 April and will be hosted by the Kurashiki Disabled Persons' International Exchange Association. The visit is kindly sponsored by Independent Fisheries, Christchurch, who sponsored two young people from Kurashiki and their caregivers to visit Christchurch in February 2005.

MAY

Outbound 30th anniversary tour 14 May - 3 June to Christchurch, England.

Canterbury Wineries at Seoul Wines & Spirits Expo 2-4 May

Supported by the Christchurch Songpa-gu Sister City Committee and NZTE, Seoul David Bolam-Smith represented Canterbury House Winery at the expo, promoted the Canterbury region on the NZTE stand and gave a presentation on Canterbury wines during the expo. Canterbury House's Pinot Noir was tasted as part of the menu for the VIP opening luncheon attended by 150 ambassadors, trade commissioners, Presidents of companies and wine lovers. The next step is promotion of the expo to Canterbury wineries, with a proposal to get a Canterbury Wine Delegation to the 2007 Seoul Wines & Spirits Expo in Seoul.

International Christchurch Youth (ICY) presentation

Three ICY members were invited (and sponsored) to present at 2 workshops at the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference, Wellington, 9-12 May.

Sister Cities & ICY displays at Sister Cities New Zealand Conference

Education Exchange through International connections was the theme of Christchurch's display. The ICY display showcased their key projects over the last 2 years.

Visit from Seattle

Visit of Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle and Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire 11 – 15 May.

Visit of Gansu delegation

Five officials from Gansu Province visited Christchurch for 2 days.

JULY

4 Seattle students will visit Christchurch

As part of the annual Seattle Scholar Exchange Programme four Seattle students will be home-hosted by four Christchurch students who will then travel to Seattle later in the year and stay with them.

Kurashiki Student inbound student exchange scheduled for 23 July - 7 August 2006.

14 students and 2 leaders from Kurashiki will be chosen to participate in this annual exchange. They are to be home hosted by Christchurch families for the duration of their stay.

ICY representatives at Sister Cities International 50th Anniversary Conference, Washington, DC

International Christchurch Youth will be sending one young person to the conference, understood to be the first time youth will represent New Zealand at a Sister Cities International Conference.

Delegation from Adelaide A delegation is expected to visit Christchurch from Adelaide 21-25 July. The delegation will probably be led by Lord Mayor Michael Harbison.

Adelaide Festival

Support dance theatre company Soapbox to attend 'show and tell' festival in Adelaide.

AUGUST

Joint Sculpture exhibition between Christchurch and Kurashiki. Christchurch sculptor Graham Bennet and Kurashiki sculptor Wataru Hamasaka both highly regarded in their respective countries, will exhibit together in an exhibition entitled 'Ishi' at the Arthouse, Christchurch from 22 August to 10 September 2006.

Middleton Grange International College to host Ogum High School group from Songpa

Middleton Grange will host the Principal and around 15 students and teachers and will formalize a sister school agreement with the school at that time.

SEPTEMBER

Seattle Scholar programme

4 Christchurch high school students selected as Seattle Scholars will spend two weeks in Seattle, where they will be home-hosted and attend University Preparatory School, Seattle, while also taking in the sights and lifestyle of Seattle.

Christchurch's annual student exchange to Kurashiki

14 high school students and two leaders will be selected to visit Kurashiki where they will be home-hosted and attend school, as part of the annual Kurashiki exchange.

OCTOBER

Ikebana group bound for Japan

Christchurch Chapter 101 are planning a visit to Japan to coincide with Ikebana International's annual conference which is to be held in Tokyo from 27 – 31 October. After the conference the group is planning to attend a 3 day Sogetsu School workshop, also in Tokyo, before heading to Kurashiki for a few days.

ONGOING

Sister Cities Website

The history of exchanges of the Christchurch Sister Cities programme and what's happening on the News & Events page. www.christchurch.org.nz/sistercities

Sister cities art website seeks new works

'theartroom' website www.theartroom.co.nz, co-ordinated by the Christchurch, England Sister City Committee, is being upgraded, with artworks from Christchurch and sister city students on it – artworks are sought from local and sister city children for the website.

Sister Cities Gardens, Halswell Quarry Park are open year round.

There are 6 sister city botanical gardens and a Canterbury native garden, containing botanical collections and artistic pieces from our sister cities.

International Christchurch Youth (ICY) are producing a manual on running an International Day in Christchurch primary schools. It will be sent to all interested Christchurch schools encouraging them to hold an International Day.

CURRENT ACTIVE SISTER SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

- Oaklands School and Direk School, Adelaide (for about 14 years they have exchanged annually)
- South Hornby School and Hawthorndene School, Adelaide (Visit to Adelaide Sep, 03 & visit from Hawthorndene Nov 04)

- Mount Pleasant School and Dai Shi Fukuda, Kurashiki
- Merrin School and Se Ryun School, Songpa (2 visits to CHCH, one to Se Ryun and one planned for Sep '05)
- Linwood College & Twynham Comprehensive, CHCH, England (exchanges both ways)
- Christchurch Polytechnic with Bailie School in Lanzhou, Gansu
- Darfield High School with the Shandan Bailie School in Shandan, Gansu
- Chisnallwood Intermediate and Gawon Middle School, Songpa

School Exchanges in their infancy:

- Year 4 & 5 students at Somerfield School are corresponding with Nakashima Elementary School, Kurashiki
- Middleton Grange are to formalize a sister school relationship with Ogum High School, Songpa in August, during an exchange visit.
- Kirkwood Intermediate are exploring a sister city relationship with Pungseong Elementary School in Songpa.
- Papanui Primary School is investigating forming a link with an Adelaide primary school.
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