Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 10, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

70 Thai students to receive Mayoral welcome

A joint group of Thai students and staff numbering almost 70 will attend a welcome ceremony held at the Invercargill City Council this Friday as part of their two month visit to Invercargill.

Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt will officially welcome the students in the Council Chambers on the first floor of the Civic Administration Building, 101 Esk Street at 10.30am on Friday April 11.

Both groups are part of cultural and study exchange programmes with students staying for eight weeks. The first group of over 40 students is the result of a relationship built over the last 18 years between local schools, including James Hargest College and Waihopai Primary School and Thailand Education Agent Prateep Ratchawatawana.

Mr Ratchawatawana runs an international education agency business and teaches English at a high school in his hometown. The Thai students have been fully integrated into the New Zealand school system. Other activities as part of their trip include holiday tours to Te Anau, Queenstown and Dunedin.

The second group comes from The Prince Royal's College in Chiang Mai, Thailand – the relationship resulting from the efforts of the Education Southland International Marketing Alliance lead by Venture Southland. This relationship began four years ago with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. This has since seen students arriving in Southland for the last three years to undertake an eight week study and cultural programme, living in homestay or school hostels and immersing in community, school and family life. Over 100 students have now visited as part of the exchange with ten of these students choosing to study long term in Southland.

ENDS.

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