



Sister cities celebrate 25th anniversary

BY EIRWEN HARRIS MITCHELL

LAST week, Invercargill hosted 18 Japanese delegates to mark the 25th anniversary of the city's sister city relationship with Kumagaya.

The delegation was led by long-serving Mayor Kiyoshi Tomioka and Chairman of Kumagaya Council Tomio Matsumoto, plus staff and 14 citizens from Kumagaya.

The visit included a formal meeting with Mayor Tim Shadbolt, plus a powhiri and 25th anniversary dinner at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff. During the visit Mayor Tomioka was presented with a Civic Award for his services to Sister City and a key to the city of Invercargill, crafted from recycled rimu by Development Liaison Manager Simon Tonkin. Invercargill also presented Kumagaya with a gift of a silver tray, engraved with an inscription to mark the 25th anniversary.

The celebrations were attended by Councillors, Directors, representatives of the Southern Institute

of Technology, Invercargill secondary schools, Japanese teachers, Iwi representatives and members of the Friendship Association.

A highlight of the celebrations was a visit to Queens Park, where Mayor Tomioka and Mr Yoshitomo Miyashita planted a tree in the Japanese garden with retiring Parks Manager Robin Pagan.

Mr Miyashita's father, Mr Yoshio Miyashita, designed the Japanese garden in Queens Park and home-stayed with Robin and his family 20 years ago.

The visitors also enjoyed a spot of shopping in Invercargill's city centre, a farm visit to see a sheep being shorn, feed lambs and to enjoy a home-made afternoon tea, and a traditional Kiwi barbecue dinner.

As usual, the visit was a team effort and my thanks to the Mayor, Councillors, Friendship Association and Council staff who worked hard to make it a success.

Trustpower Award winners announced



COMMUNITY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to those who were finalists or winners in last night's Trustpower Community Awards for the Invercargill/Southland region. The Supreme Award winner was the South Catlins Charitable Trust.

Councillors may wish to pass on their congratulations to the following winners and finalists with links to the Council, often through either current or past funding provided to them.

Trustpower Community Award winners:

- Bluff Motupohue Environment Trust
- Loss and Grief Support Trust Southland
- Southland Multicultural Council

Also, congratulations to our Youth Councillors recognised:

- Molly Haywood, Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award Winner
- Hamish Muhl, Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award Finalist

Catching up on unregistered dogs

DESPITE the best efforts of members of the Animal Control team, about 600 dogs remain unregistered in Invercargill.

Re-registration of all dogs was due in August, and the great majority of approximately 9,000 dogs in Invercargill are now wearing their new, green registration tag.

Staff sent reminder notices to dog owners who did not meet the registration deadline, and during the past fortnight Animal Control officers have either phoned or visited all known owners of dogs which remain unregistered to remind them that this must be done. We hope that this personal approach is effective in lowering the number of dogs that still haven't been registered.

In November, we will be sending out infringement notices to unregistered dog owners. At the end of November, we will begin the process of seizing unregistered dogs.





Handmade poppies for exhibition

COUNCIL staff, friends and family have knitted about 150 poppies for the Armistice Exhibition which will open to the public next week.

The poppies are being pinned onto a large poppy shape which will be part of a window display. The exhibition is being held in the former ASB premises at 63 Esk St and will be opened by His Worship the Mayor at 10am on November 1.

The exhibition will be open daily between 10am and 4pm from November 1 until November 10 with volunteers in attendance.

The poppies have been knitted to honour the council employees who served and those who died in World War I. The diverse colours and styles reflect the diversity of the men.

The response to the request to knit poppies was amazing and exceeded our expectations.

A big thank you to all involved in the knitting and in sewing all the pins on the back!

When the exhibition closes the poppies will be offered to local rest homes for the residents to use or to wear on Anzac day.

Youth Council applications invited

THE Invercargill City Council is seeking nominations for the 2019 Youth Council.

Applications from young people aged 12 – 24 years will be welcomed.

Meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays between 4pm and 5.30pm.

We would also welcome applications from those who have left school and we could negotiate a later meeting time to suit this age group.

The Youth Council considers reports City Councillors will be discussing and provides a youth perspective to the Invercargill City Council.

Members also have leadership opportunities available and undertake the organising of youth projects.

Please share this opportunity with young people who may be interested. Applications close on 5 November.

The application form can be found on Council's website: www.icc.govt.nz/your-council/youth-council/

