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**DUNEDIN CITY
COUNCIL**
Kaitiaki a rohi a Otago

**Our Mission is
to Maintain and
Enhance our
Community for the
Long-term Wellbeing
of our People and
Environment.**

Celebration extends to include whole community



The city's New Year's Eve celebration is being extended this year to ensure it isn't just a midnight countdown and fireworks, and the Dunedin City Council, together with the Oxo Cubans Big Band, are making sure those that can't come along to the celebration don't miss out.

From early December volunteers from the Oxo Cubans will be making their way around Dunedin's rest homes and the Public Hospital in an effort to make sure the concert reaches into the wider community.

New Year's Eve is not just a celebration, but a showcase of local talent that involves the whole community.

Taking the concert to those who can't come along to the Octagon reinforces the Dunedin City Council's commitment to establishing this as a broader event based around the community, family and the good-will it generates.

The event organizers point out that New Year's Eve in Dunedin shouldn't be just about letting off fire-crackers and joining in a countdown. It's also about releasing the talent that often lies dormant throughout the year and showcasing what the city has to offer – and Dunedin is New Zealand's only city that makes sure this talent from the New Year's Eve celebration reaches everyone.

A group of up to ten rostered musicians from the Oxo Cubans will be playing some of the items to be played at the concert, as well as take requests from rest home and hospital patients from 5 December, right through to New Year's Eve.

Jim Harland, DCC Chief Executive

Signed and Sealed.

There will be no increasing building costs for Dunedin's Chinese Garden with the recent confirmation and signing of a contract which will see Dunedin reap a \$1.2million discount on construction. Shanghai recognised its strong link to its sister city, Dunedin, in a top level ceremony which saw Mayor Peter Chin and Shanghai's Construction and Decoration Group Chairman, Hong Zien Zhang sign the construction agreement. Mayor Peter Chin, along with DCC General Manager Community Life, Graeme Hall, and other Dunedin representatives all travelled to Shanghai for the contract signing ceremony.

Further Action for Flood Control

For some time now the Dunedin City Council and the Otago Regional Council have been looking at the flood hazard issues associated with the Mosgiel Taieri Plains highlighted by the floods in April this year. That event raised a series of questions about the need to review planning policies and processes to manage building development in flood-prone areas.

The exercise has shown collaboration and commitment by the two Council's to now manage improvement on the floodplain through areas of a flood hazard database and policy development. The real point of this for the DCC was the ORC data which has led to a change in building consent within the newly identified flood area which will see the minimum height for new buildings raised to 200mm.

Coastal Conservation Project Set to Roll On

The Dunedin City Council manages 14 coastal reserves covering an area of nearly 600 hectares, stretching from Brighton in the south to Waikouaiti in the north. The Council recognises the important role that these areas play in protecting coastal communities from the impacts of extreme weather events and predicted sea-level rise, as well as providing for many recreational activities.

In 2003, the Council approved a \$1.6m Coastal Dune Conservation Works Programme, which included:

- Dune protection works, including the re-nourishment of beaches at Macandrew and Broad Bay, the re-contouring of dunes at Ocean Grove and Middle Beach, and other erosion control works;
- Dune re-vegetation programmes;
- Improvement of public access to coastal areas; and
- Installation of signage for education and interpretation.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, resource consent is required for a number of the proposed activities. Resource consent applications have been submitted to both DCC and ORC for dune conservation works at Ocean Grove and Ocean Beach, which are now open for public submission. Submissions close 8 December, 2006.

Folk Festival with a Dunedin Twist

Dunedin went all the way to China recently to strut their stuff as part of the International Folk Art Festival in Baoshan, Shanghai.

A group of about ten Dunedin Maori cultural performance group members (Nga Uri O Tumatauenga), together with Mayor Peter Chin and DCC staff member Jack Tang, were invited to represent New Zealand at the festival, and were said to be the favourites among the audience and festival committee members alike.

DCC staff member, Jack Tang, said knowledge of New Zealand among Chinese people is generally quite low. "The Maori performances throughout the festival provided a further insight into NZ culture, and suggested NZ has more to offer than just being one of the world's tourist mecca's", he said.

The festival has been running on consecutive years for ten years now, and saw representatives from countries such as Mexico, Scotland, America, Slovakia, Germany and Brazil come to showcase their culture.