



HASTINGS-GUILIN SISTER CITIES SINCE 1981



How the Relationship Came About

- Dr Don McKenzie, the “Friendship Messenger”
- Links began between DSIR Horticulture Division (now HortResearch) with Guangxi Institute of Botany (GIB)
- Protocol document signed 1981 by Mayors Jim O’Connor & Liang Shan
- First Sister City relationship established between New Zealand and China



The Early Years 1981-1990



- Goodwill Delegations at Mayor & Council level
- Information sharing in local government management, agriculture and industry
- Establishment of links between horticulture and education sectors
- Cultural Exchanges



The 1990s

- A time of increased activity under leadership of Mayor Jeremy Dwyer
- Professional management structure established in HDC with a Board of Directors & Guilin Forum
- Specialist groups focus on Education, Business & Culture
- Work Exchanges (Horticulture exchange continues today)
- Establishment of Osmanthus Garden in Hastings



Osmanthus Garden

Built to mark 15th Anniversary of
Sister City relationship



Authentic Chinese Garden designed by Mr Zhao Jian,
landscape designer from Guilin

Interior paintings by Auckland based Chinese artists, Bang Zhen
Deng & Lu Bo

Common Areas of Interest

- Horticulture
- Rural-urban mix
- Tourism
- Education
- Culture



Education Links



- Student Exchanges
- Teachers' Delegations
- Teacher placements in Guilin
- Guilin Education Resource Kit for primary schools in Hastings District
- Education Link Group
- Formal links between Guangxi Normal University & Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT)
- Sister school links

Cultural Links



- Chinese Acrobats & Jugglers
- Guilin Children's Palace Dance Troupe
- Student Art Work
- Camera Club
- Maori Cultural groups
- Potters Exhibition
- Hastings Citizens Band
- Heretaunga Intermediate – Spring Festival

Business Links



- Work Exchange with Guilin Investment Promotion Bureau – Advice to Hastings' businesses
- Businesses have links with China, but not necessarily Guilin
- Tourism & agriculture have potential
- Possible Sister City shop in Guilin with Hastings' products

The Next 25 Years

- **NZ-China Free Trade Agreement**
 - Committed to secure a deal within 1 to 2 years
 - Improving market access opportunities
- **Tourism**
 - Commercial tours
- **Education**
 - Fee paying students in high schools
 - Course established between EIT & GNU

