

MASTERTON – ARMIDALE RELATIONSHIP

Masterton Youth Concert Band
Australia Music Tour 2003

Armidale

on New England's beautiful 'Waterfall Way'

Booloominbah

St. Mary and Joseph's Cathedral

Saint Paul's

Background

- Armidale is one of three sister cities associated with Masterton. The link between these two communities commenced in 1977.
- The Masterton International Relations Committee wanted to drive a project which would enhance the relationship between these two towns.
- In 2002, the Masterton Youth Concert Band was formed and the community began planning a trip to Armidale. This followed a successful visit by the 1998 Armidale Youth Orchestra to Masterton which had never been reciprocated.

Project

- The project was a major undertaking for a town of 18,000 people, where 60.5% of residents earning under \$20,000.
- In order for a group of 48 including the Youth Band and supporters to travel to Armidale debt-free for 12 days in July 2003, a total of \$73,000 was required. The funds were achieved due to a huge effort from every community source imaginable throughout the Wairarapa.
- The itinerary and budget were progressed through co-operation from the Masterton District Council, Masterton District Band, a fundraising committee and the community at large.

Project

- One of the major fundraising activities was a Radio Auction, the concept of which was derived from Armidale and raised a staggering \$5,000 in three hours.
- Auditions for the Youth Band and two vocal soloists were open for all children between the ages of 10 and 19 and once chosen, regular rehearsals and practice concerts were held throughout the Wairarapa.
- This was the first time that the community had funded and supported sending a group of youth of this size to a sister city.

Tour Programme

- The group would travel from Masterton to Sydney on 18 July 2003 and then have an eight hour train trip to Armidale.
- Accommodation would be kindly provided at the New England University.
- A series of school visits and workshops would be held as well as 10 one-hour concerts for the public of Armidale. The group would also have the opportunity to visit some of the town's picturesque National Parks.



BOOKSELLERS

ALÉ

MASTERTON YOUTH
BAND

Benefits

The 2003 Masterton Youth Concert Band's trip to Armidale has:

- Positively enhanced the relationship between Armidale and Masterton for future musical, cultural and educational opportunities.
- Encouraged the development of young musical talent in the formation of the Wairapapa Youth Concert Band (WYCB) in January 2004.
- Given hope for other Sister City youth tours with the WYCB hoping to tour one of Masterton's other sister cities, Hatsukaichi in Japan at Easter 2007.

This project is a clear example of how the sister cities model can be successfully used to encourage our youth to be involved in community backed activities at home and abroad.

It has enabled two towns from different countries to form positive long lasting relationships which can only be strengthened in the future.

The trip would not have been such a success without the generous support of Masterton District Brass Band, Masterton District Council and Armidale Dumaresq Council.

