



*People First*

**Southland District Council**

*Te Rohe Pōtae O Murihiku*

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**March 24 2009**

## **Cinque Terre Sister City agreement to be signed on Thursday**

Southland District Council will say benvenuti to Cinque Terre National Park this week when the two sign a sister city agreement on Thursday.

Council senior policy analyst Wayne Heerdegen said Southland Mayor Frana Cardno and Cinque Terre President Franco Bonanini will simultaneously sign the agreement through the Skype internet service at around 8am (NZT)/8pm (Italian time) on Thursday.

“It’s fantastic that we can sit around the Council table in Invercargill and watch the Italians sign the agreement and they can watch our Mayor do the same from Cinque Terre. It means the significance of the ceremony is not lost even though we are not together in the same room,” Mr Heerdegen said.

“This demonstrates how distance in the world is shrinking through information technology and how that is opening up new opportunities for communities to engage and build personal and business relationship throughout the world.”

The signing can be watched through live streaming on the internet at <http://www.tvparco5terre.it/diretta/>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Media are invited to the signing and will have an opportunity to ask both sides questions. The ceremony will start at **8am**.

ENDS

**For further information please contact:**

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