

## **COLUMN FROM MAYOR TIM SHADBOLT**

**SOUTHLAND EXPRESS, 28 MAY 2009**

This has been a sad week for Invercargill with the loss of our city's only surviving former Mayor, Mr David Harrington JP. Council staff, Councillors, members of the Invercargill Licensing Trust, RSA and the Catholic community will be quieter this week as we reflect on the life of this calm, kind, generous, warm-hearted gentleman who was a great leader in our city and province for over 30 years.

I first met David Harrington on a trip to Japan in 1993. There were 21 community and business leaders in our tour group and we were heading north to sign our Sister City Agreement with Kumagaya. It was a pleasure to travel with David and I'm afraid I'm a strong advocate of the golden rule that "what goes on tour stays on tour!" Let's just say that David had a great sense of humour and we had a lot of fun. We have some rather challenging photos of the tour in the Council vaults and we also shared cultural confusion. At one bus stop we all got into a Japanese bath-house. Within a minute all the males were naked and in a hot pool together and then we were joined by six of our hosts. It was lovely and warm, but we did all feel a little self conscious.

Throughout the tour David Harrington was warm and charming and our Japanese hosts were greatly impressed by his dignified manner during ceremonial occasions. He was a great diplomat.

Everyone who had the pleasure of meeting or working with this wonderful man will deeply miss him. Our deepest sympathies are extended to all the family.