

CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THE PHOTO OF THE WEEK
weekender



Home News Opinion Blogs Features Family Notices Classifieds Photos Events Clubs Advertising Contact

Sport Focus On The Land Entertainment Obituary Your News

Twin towns agreement a first with Spain, whanau

Friday, January 07, 2011 • Martin Gibson

FOR the people of Spain, New Zealanders are truly “Antipodeans” — people from the opposite side of the world.

On the East Coast this link is made stronger through the family links with Spanish trader Manuel Jose de Frutos, who settled at Port Awanui near Ruatoria in the 1830s and married five different women there: Tapita Te Herekaipuke, Kataraina, Maraea Hopaia, Mihi Taheke and Maraea Taheke, whose descendants became known as the “Paniora”.

These family links have been formally recognised through a “Twin Town” agreement between Gisborne and Jose’s Spanish home village of Valverde del Majano.

Signed during the Christmas/New Year visit here by a party of 10 descendants of Manuel Jose’s sister Magdalena de Frutos Huerta, with another 10 supporters including the Spanish Ambassador and the mayor of Valverde, the twin towns agreement is a first in several ways.

It is the first such agreement between New Zealand and Spain, and the first to include a family in the text of the agreement, which aims to boost both places.

“Today a community of more than 78,000 people represents the happy and effective union of Valverde del Majano in Spain, and Gisborne in New Zealand,” says the agreement, which aims to foster co-operation, learning and friendship between the two places on opposite sides of the world.

The agreement covers cultural aspects and the promotion of Manuel Jose as an historical figure, as well as regular meetings between family members and the promotion of this connection for tourism, trade and education between the two countries.

The Spanish Consulate in Wellington is already promoting the East Coast to Spanish visitors.

The agreement is really positive for our region, says Gisborne Mayor Meng Foon.

“I love the strength of whanau, and this whanau is very strong in its ties to each other.

“The Paniora Natis have just added thousands more to their whakapapa,” said Mr Foon.

“The Mayor of Valverde del Majano and I will be working together to design strategies to promote the wellbeing of each respective community.

“I enjoyed their visit very much, a stay which cemented in their hearts the value of family and hospitality — thank you to all those who helped organised their very memorable stay in Gisborne and the Coast.”

n A full account of the East Coast adventures of the Spanish relations of the Paniora was written by one of the organisers, Edda McCabe, and will appear in tomorrow’s Gisborne Herald.



Send in your comments

You need to be signed in to comment.

Email

Password

[Register](#) • [Forgot password](#)

Sign-in

Advertisement



Explore The Gisborne Herald

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| News | Editorial | Features | Events |
| Sport | Letters to the Editor | Family Notices | Clubs |
| Focus on the Land | Columns | Classifieds | Advertising |
| News Features | Polls | Photos | Contact |

Send in your

News

Letters

Columns

Events

Clubs

Classifieds

Poll suggestions

64 Gladstone Road, PO Box 1143, Gisborne, New Zealand | Ph: +64 6 869 0600 | Fax: +64 6 869 0643 (editorial) | Fax: +64 6 869 0644 (advertising) | News Hotline: 0800 NEWSLINE (639 754) | info@gisborneherald.co.nz Copyright © The Gisborne Herald

ACAP ENABLED