

**Title: Red and White Mufti Day for Japan**

This Media Release has been prepared by:

Ruth Clarke  
Timaru District Council  
Email:  
[ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz)  
2 King George Place  
Timaru  
P O Box 522  
Timaru  
New Zealand

Telephone: 03 687 7200  
Fax: 03 687 7201  
Website:  
[www.timaru.govt.nz](http://www.timaru.govt.nz)

Timaru District Council is launching a Red and White Mufti Day. New Zealanders are being urged to wear the red and white colours of Japan on Friday 6 May to show support for the people of Japan and to raise funds for those affected in the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami disaster.

Council regularly has in-house mufti days to support various appeals, but Mayor Janie and the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce have lent their support to launching the fundraiser nationally. Mayor Janie says "I hope it will encourage people to use the event as a platform for a fundraising effort to show support for Japan. In Timaru, we want to acknowledge the close relationship we have with our sister city, Eniwa and support those affected in Japan."

It's easy. It's fun. It'll only cost a gold coin donation, and above all it enables a response to acknowledge the enormity of the disaster on a humanitarian scale. Recent figures collated from Fire and Police statistics updated on 7 April indicate that 12,690 people are dead and 14,736 people are missing.

Responding to this crisis also recognises the many levels at which New Zealanders have relationships with Japan starting on a personal level with friendships and marriages, through to cultural, social, and economic relationships and civic relationships such as our sister city agreement with Eniwa.

Ruth Clarke, the organiser who works at council and interprets and translates for the Eniwa Sister City visits, says she hopes the Mufti day will be taken up throughout New Zealand, maybe even internationally, and that many businesses, schools, community groups and organisations will participate and support Japan.

Notification of participation and funds raised would be appreciated. Email [ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz). Donations will be received by the Timaru District Council or donate directly to the Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org.nz/donate> (select Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 2011).

**Contacts:**

- Ruth Clarke – [ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:ruth.clarke@timdc.govt.nz), 03 6877200
- Janie Annear – [mayorspa@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:mayorspa@timdc.govt.nz), 03 6877200