

# The Tribune

Your window to the community

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Sunday, April 5, 2009

**ON ROAD AGAIN**  
Lions put up cash for  
new YOSS bus 3



**SHE'S BACK!**  
1920 first-day pupil  
returns to PNGHS 5



**HOPPED UP**  
Another dance title  
to Monrad 9



Joining the "circle of life" are, from left, John Wall, sister city committee; Wiremu Te Awe Awe, Rangitane; John Hornblow, deputy mayor, and William and Evelyn Brown.

Picture: MURRAY WILSON

## Native American blanket donated

By **Alistar Browne**  
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Sister cities inevitably bring on comparisons.

Take Palmerston North and Missoula, for example.

The Montana city has eight bridges, while Palmerston North is still mired in argument over whether it should have a second.

Missoula has a centre-city square that people like to use, a place where people go to play, eat, and be entertained.

Compare that with Palmerston North, where you venture forth into The Square at your peril once the

sun goes down and the drunken thugs come out.

But we do have the better public library, apparently, and there was this bloke from Missoula who came to New Zealand, and Manawatu in particular, no fewer than 32 times in his lifetime for the fishing.

That's according to deputy mayor John Hornblow, who was in The Square this week (during daytime hours) at a ceremony for the handing-over of a native American blanket.

It was given to the city by Palmerston North old boy William Brown, and his wife Evelyn.

The couple work on native

American social justice and advocacy issues in the United States, which was why they were keen to gift the blanket to the city on the marae in The Square this week.

Mr Brown, 36, next plans to go to the University of Montana in Missoula to take a degree in native American studies and law.

Mrs Brown, 38, said native Americans looked to Maori culture for inspiration, and their "circle of life" blanket was a way of repaying that inspiration, as well as cementing Palmerston North's ties with Missoula.

The couple met when they were

teens in the Philippines, Mrs Brown's home country, but then parted before getting together again five years later when Mr Brown was living in Japan and Mrs Brown in Switzerland.

They have a 5-year-old son, Mikaia.

They say they intend to work on strengthening Missoula's links with Palmerston North.

Deputy Mayor Hornblow said those links were already in pretty good shape, celebrated, for example, through Missoula's annual Palmerston North Day, when the locals dress up in All Black lookalike clobber – plus the

city has its own rugby team.

In the end, says Mr Hornblow, the links are only as good as the relationships that are established between people, whether they be through exchanges of students, trade missions, or just plain folk visiting.

And, of course, events like the one that was celebrated in The Square this week – the gifting of what the Browns called a "generic" blanket celebrating all the colours of native American life and culture.

It will probably be displayed in the Missoula Room, which doubles as a city council committee meeting room.