

# Taking a stand against violence to women

NZ Police, the Fire Service, St John and the Christchurch City Council (Safer Christchurch) made a stand against violence towards women at a White Ribbon Day Breakfast barbecue held in Cathedral Square on Thursday 25 November. White Ribbon is a global campaign led by men who condemn violence against women.

Mayor Bob Parker says “Violence against anyone is unacceptable. Violence against women is far too common in our society. This day is intended to raise our awareness of the problem.”

Joining the Mayor was Crusaders’ Coach Todd Blackadder, Canterbury Rugby’s Stephen Brett, Tu Umaga Marshall, Willi Heinz and Coast to Coast Race Director Robin Judkins, Dean Peter Beck, City Councillors Sally Buck, Glenn Livingstone, Jimmy Chen and Chrissie Williams, Police and Fire Area Commanders, and other members of the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group, all committed to reducing violence and promoting a safer community.

The public were invited to Cathedral Square for sausages, hot chocolate and flavoured milk (generously donated by Heller’s, Starbucks and Meadow Fresh respectively), to meet those taking part, and to get a White Ribbon to wear. At the end of the day over 600 sausages were cooked and over 1400 white ribbons were handed out with the message that domestic violence was not O.K.



*White Ribbon Day public BBQ set up in front of the Christchurch Cathedral.*

“The Safer Christchurch Strategy was developed in 2005 with the aim of making Christchurch a safer place to live, work and play, and sets the strategy for the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group,” says Glenn Dobson, Christchurch City Council’s Safer Christchurch Manager.

"The Strategy recognises the contribution by community organisations and government agencies which contribute to community safety in Christchurch.”

“So far we have been very successful, guiding Christchurch to achieving accreditation in 2008 as an International Safe Community based on criteria developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Today’s event has been a great collaboration between both Government organisations and NGO’s to spread the message and show our combined support to stopping domestic violence. It is hoped that each year we can build a bigger and stronger message for the public on this date.”



*Crusaders Coach Todd Blackadder shares the White Ribbon message with Lynette Price from the Christchurch City Council.*