

● THIS WEEK ●



MEMBERS of Fairfield's delegation to Hsinchu (left to right): John Parvasovic, Anwar Koshaba, Phuong Ngo, Nick Lalich, Lawrence White, Bob Robertson and Terry Barnes

Linking of two cities

FAIRFIELD and Hsinchu cities are now officially sisters – sister cities, that is.

A 23-member delegation of Fairfield councillors, including Mayor Nick Lalich and Cr Phuong Ngo, and local business people returned to Sydney last Wednesday after spending a week in Hsinchu, Taiwan, to finalise the sister city relationship.

However, not all the community was in favour of the project.

President of the Cabramatta Electoral Council for the Labor Party, Ken Chapman, said the sister cities issue had divided the Chinese community in Cabramatta because many felt "the choice of Hsinchu City does not represent the majority of Chinese people in Cabramatta who come from mainland China, not Taiwan".

Cr Chapman also expressed doubts about the commercial bene-

fits which this relationship would bring to Fairfield.

"I have yet to be briefed on the matter and, at the moment, I have no idea what the exact nature of any future business dealings between the cities could be," Cr Chapman said.

President of Teo Chew (a Chinese community organisation), Dennis Duong, who tried unsuccessfully to forge a sister city relationship with Shantou in China, also felt that there would not be "many commercial benefits for Fairfield City in the short term".

Disagreeing with both men, Mayor Lalich was confident of many benefits to be gained from this sister city friendship.

"Hsinchu has a lot to offer Fairfield because it is the silicon

capital of Taiwan and many high-tech and computer industries generate from there," the mayor said.

He also said because Hsinchu was already overcrowded, somewhere like Wetherill Park would be ideal for setting up light industry, like computer software manufacturing.

The mayor confirmed that a number of Hsinchu police would visit Fairfield to liaise with local police and Fairfield City Council with the aim to tackling crime problems.

"Hsinchu City had a bad crime problem 10 years ago but now the police have brought the crime rate down," the mayor said.

A 40-member delegation from Hsinchu, including the city mayor Shen-nan Tong, will arrive next month to further develop the sister city friendship.