



*Te Kaunihera o*  
**MANUKAU**  
*City Council*

## **Media Release**

3 April 2006

### **Prime Minister Tony Blair visits Manukau**

On Wednesday 29 March British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie Blair visited Manukau as part of a 24 hour visit to New Zealand. They were accompanied by Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark and her husband Peter Davis.

During his brief time in New Zealand Mr Blair visited Mountain View Primary School and Villa Maria Vineyard, both in Mangere, Manukau.

At Mountain View primary school the official party were welcomed by school children performing a traditional powhiri and greeted in different languages to reflect the many cultures of the school. Mr Blair gave the school a koha (gift) of books before taking part in a tour of the school.

At Villa Maria he took part in a tour of the vineyard and watched Malbec grapes being plunged. It was Mr Blair's first visit to a working vineyard. Villa Maria is open to the public to take part in similar tours and is located just minutes from Auckland International Airport - making it a great tourism destination.

Media from around the world covered Tony and Cherie Blair's visit to Manukau and images appeared in a number of publications generating publicity for the Manukau region.

**ENDS**

