

**Dedication of “Telling Stones,”
Sculpture at Mapua Elementary School
Mapua, Nelson District, New Zealand
Tuesday, December 11, 2007**

Remarks by Jim Rader

Good Morning. Thank you all for your warm welcome. My name is Jim Rader and I am visiting from the United States. Kate Pond is my sister-in-law, the sister of my wife Meg. I want to tell you a little about Kate and about her World Sculpture Project. The sculpture in front of us is part of the World Sculpture Project – the last of five sculptures that Kate has done around the world.

Some of who are American friends of Kate were talking this morning about the question, “What is a sculptor?” A couple of the ideas *we* had were these:

- A sculptor is a shaper, a person who shapes things.
- A sculptor sees possibilities, has a vision, and brings form to that vision.

Kate fits both of these definitions. Beginning as a child, she has taken materials around her and shaped them to her vision. Kate has worked with a variety of materials, from stone to cloth – even making sculptures that fly like kites. In the United States she is best known for her large sculptures in steel.

About fifteen years ago she got the idea for her World Sculpture Project – a series of sculptures linking places and people around the world. At the beginning Kate didn’t know *how* she would do this. She didn’t know *where* the sculptures would be. But she went ahead anyway.

And now, from Norway to New Zealand, she has brought these five sculptures into being.

In talking about what a sculptor is, another one of the ideas that we had is this:

- A sculptor is a connector, a person who connects things, and who also connects people.

Kate Pond is certainly a sculptor in this sense, too – connecting the stones in this sculpture, but also connecting all of us to sculpture, and connecting you here in Mapua to distant places around the world.

Through this sculpture we are dedicating today, you, the teachers and students and parents of Mapua, are linked to these four distant places:

- You have a connection to a sculpture at a science museum in Oslo, Norway.

- You have a connection to a sculpture at a museum in Stanstead, Quebec, in Canada just across the border from Vermont, the state in which Kate lives.
- You have a connection to a sculpture at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, in the United States.
- And you have a connection to a sculpture in a sports park in Sendai, Japan.

In just eight years, in the year 2015, the time capsules at all five of these sculptures will be opened. And the art work inside the capsules will become part of a traveling exhibition that will come here to Mapua, as well as to the other four places.

I hope that, as teenagers, you students here today will enjoy that exhibition and will be able to say, “I was part of this. I participated in this.” And I hope that many of you will be able, eventually, to travel to see the other four sculptures.

I feel honored to have been asked by Kate Pond to help with the mathematics involved in the first two sculptures – in helping to figure out the sun angles. I hope that you, the people of Mapua, feel honored that Kate chose your community, and worked with your children, in producing this sculpture.

Again, thank you for all your hospitality and thank you for allowing us to be part of the Mapua community for this brief time.