

Peters last year announced New Zealand's biggest dollar increase in foreign aid, involving a total increase of 69 per cent to \$601 million over four years. At least half of that will be spent in the Pacific.

reform by sometimes corrupt governments and improved employment-led growth, crime, civil unrest and graft would worsen, making the region increasingly attractive to major criminal interests.

filling to overflowing the largest hall in the lakeside town that had been his home for more than 20 years.

The service was told that Braun-Elwert had been planning to celebrate his 60th birthday

and five others in the group climbing and skiing with him "for your valiant effort to bring Gottlieb back to life".

She told how during her European OE in the 1970s, Braun-Elwert had wooed her on

but wrote a eulogy, read by her husband Peter Davis for the "mountain" who had accompanied them on 13 trips into the mountains.

"He was bold and prudent,

ne's missing out on the best season in a long time."

His other daughter, Carla, told of the support, inspiration and courage she received from her father, whether it was following his ski tracks through

the council.

■ FEEL GOOD FILM FESTIVAL

US premiere for Kiwi director

A low budget New Zealand feature film that almost did not make the silver screen thanks to a conman will premiere at the Feel Good Film Festival in Los Angeles this week.

Christchurch-born Emily Corcoran will put on her "posh frock" and step onto the red carpet on Hollywood Boulevard tomorrow to showcase the movie she toiled over for the past five years.

"It's been a long old road," she said

The movie - Sisterhood - features Nick Ball, who also stars in Footballers' Wives and East Enders, and comedian Jon Gaddy as well as Corcoran.

The festival only includes features films and short movies that have happy endings - something appropriate for Sisterhood that was close to ending up a tragedy.

In 2006, drama school graduate Corcoran had raised



Emily Corcoran

enough money from an investor to make the film and had organised a director, Richard Wellings-Thomas.

However, six weeks into production Corcoran's investor's cheques began to bounce.

"His identity began to

unravel and I eventually discovered the man was a well known criminal fraudster," she said.

The project fell apart and Corcoran was threatened with a lawsuit from an equipment company that had not been paid. But 12 months later, after intensive fundraising efforts, the writer was back on track - and had pulled most of her family and friends along for the ride.

"My brother was a runner, my sister did continuity, my uncle did all the lighting, my aunty did the catering, my cousins also did the catering and helped out, an old friend from school played one of the sheep shears - it was crazy, we all knew each other.

"Oh, and my mother was in it, playing my mother."

Corcoran plays the main role of Shirley - a girl who grew up on a Southland farm and heads to London to find her rogue

father - Ball. She ends up by finding her chic upper-class half-sister who is continually embarrassed by her exploits.

"It's a very silly, silly movie, I should point out. It's a very fun, light hearted feel-good film."

Corcoran said Sisterhood was one of the few foreign films showing at the festival.

For Corcoran's next project she will be returning to her homeland to work on a film called Gold Diggers, based around the goldrush in New Zealand, and hoped to film much of it on the West Coast.

She did not think there would be a shortage of grizzly, gnarled actors to take up any extra roles.

"I don't think I'll have much trouble in Greymouth and I think I might be all right in Hokitika.

"I think we won't even really have to cast actors, we could probably just cast locals." -NZPA

NZ wine sales top \$800m

New Zealand Winegrowers figures show a record \$800 million of overseas wine sales in the year to June.

They also reveal Australia is now the largest market for Kiwi wine in terms of value. Its share is worth \$247 million, but Britain remains the biggest market in terms of volume.

Total export sales are up 14 per cent on 2007 to almost 90 million litres.

The news comes after a record harvest and as wineries begin the traditional selling season.

"We're really only just into the beginning of the big selling season, but you can rest assured the industry is putting a far bigger effort into sales and marketing than it has done in the past," said New Zealand Winegrowers chairman Stuart Smith.

Diversion

A Napier teenager dubbed "the Piddler on the Roof" after being caught on security camera urinating into a pay and park meter claimed yesterday he only did it once and has learned a very public lesson.

Satron John Malot, a chef, was refused name suppression when he pleaded guilty in the Napier District Court to a charge of intentionally damaging the meter in a Napier City Council-owned parking building on July 5.

Malot was offered diversion by police but must pay \$200 to the council.

Duty solicitor Leo Lafferty sought name suppression but

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