



Canterbury now has 'village guardians' in the form of Korean totem poles donated by the Korean Society of Sydney to mark 50 years since the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Australia and the Republic of Korea.

Totem 'guards'

By KIRSTY JAGGER

A PAIR of hand-carved totem poles donated by the Korean Society of Sydney were unveiled on Monday at a special ceremony in Croydon Park.

Canterbury City Council accepted the donation of Korean totem poles and approved their installation seven years ago, when first proposed by former Cr Joshua Nam.

His son, Cr Ken Nam, said the long awaited arrival of the totem poles, which were carved at the 2011 Korean Festival of Sydney, was quite emotional for his father.

They stood side by side as the totem poles were erected at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Albert Road.

"These totem poles are the first of their kind in Sydney, but what makes their installation even more special is that 2011 marks 50 years since the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Australia and the Republic of Korea," Cr Nam said.

Canterbury Mayor Brian Robson said he was proud to unveil the *jangseung*, meaning 'village guardian'.

"On behalf of the City of Canterbury, I thank the Korean Society of Sydney for their kind

donation of these sacred totem poles," Cr Robson said.

"Koreans regard them as the embodiment of deities to ward off evil spirits and to protect villages from the scourge of natural disasters.

"I am sure that these totem poles will attract and encourage residents to learn more about Korea and Koreans in our community."

Council representatives, including general manager Jim Montage and councillors Linda Eisler and Karl Saleh, attended the unveiling, as did representatives and members of the Korean Society of Sydney.