Fellow Chileans and friends,

I am very happy to have the opportunity to send you – through this brief letter – the warm Greetings and best wishes from the Embassy of Chile in New Zealand on the occasion of a new anniversary of Chile's National Day.

These dates have a very special meaning for all us Chileans living abroad; a meaning that distance and time seem not to affect, a feeling that grows stronger when the month of September comes. The love for the country, the longing for its flavours, its people and the anticipation for the "Dieciocho" flourish magically in this time of the year. Many of those who have visited Chile and had the chance of experiencing the National Festivities, share the excitement.

The Chilean community, scattered throughout the two Islands, represents – in the most diverse sectors of kiwi society – some of the best qualities Chile has to offer and it makes me particularly proud to greet the students from the Técnicos para Chile programme, an example of the drive and ability of a country on the path to development. All the best in your studies!

Dear Chilenos, in my almost four years in New Zealand I've been able to see that those who have settled in this beautiful country – no matter the reasons – never forget their beloved Chile and are proud to maintain alive their identity. Fortunately, communication technologies allow us today to be connected to faraway family and friends and keep us informed in real time of what is happening in our country. This connection is today matched with better chance to participate in national affairs: as many of you know, Chileans voting abroad has now become a reality and many of you will be able to vote in the next presidential elections.

Dear chilenas y chilenos, dear friends of Chile: Felices Fiestas Patrias y Viva Chile!!

With warm regards,

Isauro Torres

Ambassador of Chile to New Zealand