

Councillor Craig Ogilvie

Report to Redland City Council on visit to Japan 2012/13

Mission Summary:

I was invited by the Australia Japan Wildlife Education Foundation (AJWCEF) and the Japanese City of Kani to visit Japan in late November 2012 to meet with City officials and to participate in a trade show (The Kani City Industrial Fair). In addition I was invited to speak at the Nippon (Japan) University of Veterinary and Life Science (NVLSU) annual conference. It was an opportunity to further develop existing relationships that currently deliver cultural and economic benefits for Redland City.

Background:

The visit will had two phases. Firstly, at the university, and secondly at Kani City.

The NVLSU and University of Queensland and AJWCEF are developing new educational project regarding practical training in Australia for senior veterinary students of Japanese veterinary schools. The NVLSU represent other universities in Japan in the development of this project. The QLD government has shown interest in this project and QLD Treasurer Tim Nichols and Mr Adachi, the then Trade Commissioner of QLD government, met with the President of NVLU in Tokyo in July 2012.

The relationship has brought benefits to the Redlands with over 300 students now having visited the Redlands. I have met with the students in Cleveland and showed them parts of North Stradbroke Island.

The second phase was a visit to Kani City. Kani City is in the Aichi Prefecture (State) and is part of a region that is considered the economic powerhouse of Japan. If Aichi were a country it would be 10th in the world for economic output.

This relationship began with an Australia-Japan Foundation grant, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Federal Government 2011 – 2012. After an initial contact between myself and the Executive officer of the foundation, Dr Tetsuo Mizuno, a relationship between the Cleveland High School and school students in Kani City was established. They now exchange language and cultural lessons/contact in a 'virtual' classroom that is technologically based and takes advantages of Cleveland High School's state-of-the-art language labs. This relationship will soon have a physical component as the Australian students will be visiting Japan and vice-versa. By utilising two-way broadcasting, these young people can also observe and learn the lifestyle and national character of each other's country and practice conversing in their non-native language, further deepening mutual understanding between Australia and Japan. AJWCEF is considering presenting the outcomes of this pilot study, as a joint educational study between Australia and Japan, at the final meeting for the

UNESCO's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in 2014. The success of this project now provides a basis to firmly establish the Redland's as a destination and partner for many more Japanese school students .

The Kani government is showing great interest in the relationship and in 2012 sent a delegation to research the Redland's as a future destination for their students. As a consequence they have organised for Redland City Council to have a booth at the Kani Industrial Fair which is being organised by the Kani Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will be held on the 24th and 25th of November 2012 and also in November 2013. Kani City Council negotiated with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to give Redland's a booth at the fair for free. Normal cost is over \$5000. In addition there was an opportunity to present the Redlands on the main stage during the fair. The booth presented the educational opportunities, the Redlands region, and Redland's products (Sirromet). The Booth was staffed by the Councillor and the CEO of AJWCEF. There were brochures and posters and other paraphernalia, to support the goals of the booth, taken to Japan.

In my opinion this visit and the subsequent visit undertaken by myself and the Mayor in 2013 are bringing measurable benefits to the Redlands. The 2013 visit details have been ably detailed in the Mayor's report to Council. I think that this relationship is worth pursuing