

Mayoral Statement

6th September 2011

The bond between the Gladstone Region and its Japanese Sister City Saiki will be strengthened today with the affirmation of a new formal agreement of friendship. The signing will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the original agreement signed by then Gladstone City Council Mayor Peter Corones and his Saiki City Council counterpart Yuichi Sato at Gladstone's Country Plaza on September 4, 1996.

The new agreement will reflect the changed status of the respective cities with Gladstone now a part of the expanded Gladstone Regional Council and Saiki has been incorporated into the greater Oita Prefecture Council.

It is important that we continue to maintain the strong formal friendship and visits as it is of great benefit to both cities. The affirmation recognises the close relationship that exists between the communities and will serve to focus not only on the past but also on the future of mutual respect, interaction and friendship.

It is hoped that the exchange of ideas will continue into the future and that the relationship will continue to grow with the Saiki Images Photographic Competition and biannual school student visits which are so important in maintaining our relationships with Saiki. We also anticipate that the visit by Council and community representatives in November this year will reinvigorate the relationship and that there will be more visits in the future.