

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

#### **HELD WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Cr Alan Le Surf Councillor (Chair)

Other Representatives

John O'Brien Community Member Sue O'Brien Community Member Community Member Carmel Smith Wayne Collins Community Member Gay Collins Community Member Jack Nash Community Member Trevor Schwab Community Member Lyn Schwab Community Member Judi Mudge Community Member Tony Foster Community Member Helen Foster Community Member

**Council Staff** 

Elaine Kent Sister Cities Co-ordinator Ross Fleming Deputy General Manager

#### TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Sister Cities Committee** met on Wednesday 22 September 2010 to consider matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

**OPEN** The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

### ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**ACTION** 

Sumiyo Mimori and Kym Swaby – leave of absence. Mayor Jean Hay AM, David Freeman, Elise Gilet, Liberty Campbell, Vanessa Briggs, Yoko Sullivan, Sue Smith, Leslee Grant, Tatsuko Ryan, Diane Sullivan and Peter Stephens were an apology.

#### ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

#### ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**ACTION** 

The minutes of the Sister Cities Committee meeting held on 25 August 2010 were accepted.

Moved: Wayne Collins Seconded: Carmel Smith

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

Nil.

# ITEM 4 Friendship City and Sister City Projects/Exchanges 4.1 Friendship City of Yeongdo-gu, South Korea – Proposed visit to Manly 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The visit of the Yeongdo delegation, including Mayor Eo, was discussed at length, with attention to, itinerary planning, homestay and hotel organisation, transport arrangements, activity suggestions, restaurant bookings and official aspects eg Mayoral Welcome Morning Tea, Korean Flag Raising Ceremony, speeches and gift giving.

As information comes to hand it will be added to the draft itinerary and circulated to everyone involved.

The Committee were made aware that we are still awaiting confirmation of names of persons in the delegation coming from Yeongdo and there have been many requested changes to the schedule.

# 4.2 Australian Friendship City of Gunnedah 'Bush to Beach' Lifesaving Project

## Collaboration with Queenscliff Surf Club – visit to Manly 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Jack Nash provided an update on the 'bush to beach' project. Committee members volunteered their assistance during the 3 day programme. Activities on the itinerary were discussed and confirmed and will be emailed to those involved and to SCC members, as well as details of those participating from Gunnedah as soon as we are informed.

# 4.3 Sister City of Jing'an, China – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/proposed SCC member visit October 2010

Sister Cities Co-ordinator progressing the visit to Jing'an on behalf of the 7 Committee members going by liaising with Jing'an. As confirmation of official events and a schedule for the visit come to hand the information will be distributed to all those involved.

#### 4.4 Odawara, Taito City and TICC, Japan

Chaperones, John and Sue O'Brien, tabled their report (attached) on the 2010 Manly/Odawara Student Exchange Programme.

Chairman circulated the student comments received from the questionnaire sent to the Manly students and parents.

Chairman read a letter received from Malcolm Thorburn which had attached the \$100 donation cheque sent to him in appreciation for his hosting of the home party during the Odawara visit to Manly. Mr Thorburn advised he wanted to host the home party and did not want renumeration.

The Chairman advised he will provide a report on Taito/TICC visit and discussions held whilst in Japan to the next meeting.

#### Recommendation

That the information be received and noted.

#### ITEM 5 FINANCIAL REPORT

The end of August Financial Statement was accepted.

Moved: Trevor Schwab Seconded: Tony Foster

#### Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

#### ITEM 6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence, In and Out, was noted and accepted.

#### Resolved:

That the information be received and noted.

#### ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no matters of General Business.

### ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Wednesday 27 October 2010

Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Councillors Room

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

#### **REPORT - MANLY ODAWARA STUDENT EXCHANGE 2010**

BY

#### **CHAPERONES JOHN AND SUE O'BRIEN**

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. The 2010 Manly Odawara Student exchange, celebrating 20 years of Student exchange, began on Tuesday 05 17 Jul, and the return leg of the exchange began on Tuesday 03 10 Aug. This year there were 25 students from 6 schools. (namely Balgowlah Boys Campus, Mackellar Girls Campus, St Pauls Manly, Stella Girls High School, Manly Selective and Cromer High School).
- 2. Councillor Alan Le-Surf Chairman of the Sister Cities Committee, representing the Mayor, and Mr Ross Fleming, accompanied by his wife, represented the General Manager of Manly Council accompanied the chaperones to Odawara, taking part this year's student exchange.

#### INDUCTION TRAINING SESSIONS / VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

3. There were 6 @ 1 hour orientation sessions held at Balgowlah Boys Campus. These sessions provided opportunities for the students to get to know each other and to prepare themselves for their home-stay visit to Odawara. One of the comments in the feedback from students suggested that there be fewer orientation session but to increase them from 1 hour to 2 hours. There were also 2 Virtual Exchange sessions (Video conferencing) held at the Campus before the exchange and 1 held after the exchange on September 20. These virtual exchanges provided a good opportunity for Manly and Odawara students to visually "see" each other before and post exchange to say hello and foster long lasting friendships between each other.

#### **PROGRAM**

4. The program of events in Odawara was similar to previous years, including a day trip to Disneyland, official welcome and farewell, visits to the local High Schools and Odawara Castle, visits to Hakone Springs, the local Cultural Centre, BBQ day and Chief of the Day activities and many other activities. The program in Manly included a Manly Experience, official welcome at Council Chambers, a scavenger hunt in the City, BBQ beach activities at Queenscliff and Shelly Beach and a farewell at the Balgowlah Bowling Club.

#### **PASSPORTS**

5. One of the Manly students had his backpack stolen (at approximately 1100hrs) from his host families car, which was parked in a shopping centre car park the day we were leaving by bus to Tokyo to fly back to Sydney. I was immediately informed and at 12.40pm the student, myself and Ei Jay from Odawara Council were on the Shinkansen to Tokyo and the Australian Embassy to request a temporary passport. Although I had a photo-copy of all student passports, it was still mandatory, because the student was under 18 and I had not known him for 12 months, which meant the Embassy needed both parents signature. They were contacted in Australia, and both had to go to respective Post Offices to sign relevant forms. All of this was achieved within a few hours and we joined the rest of the group at Tokyo airport to board the flight back to Sydney. I needed to explain the situation about our student at the Tokyo airport QANTAS check-in desk and arrange for him to

be escorted through customs at the Tokyo airport. I have spoken to the VISA section in Sydney and if this occurs again, it will still need to be the same situation (i.e. signatures by both parents) as the Japanese and Australian officials have strict conditions regarding the issue of passports to students under 18 years of age. The Odawara Council staff were extremely efficient in contacting the Australian Embassy and QANTAS and providing the necessary funding to acquire the emergency temporary passport (approximately cost \$120 Aus).

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

6. A variety of photography was taken by myself in Odawara and Manly. Several group photographs were taken, including images depicting Manly and Odawara students, during a variety of activities. A collage of images was printed and displayed in the foyer of Manly Council depicting the 20th anniversary of student exchange. The newly elected Mayor of Odawara also visited Manly for a few days and images were taken of him and his party and a CD and prints were provided to him prior to him leaving Manly. All students from Manly and Odawara were provided with a selection of prints, including group photography and interaction with each other. A selection of images on 2 CD'S have been produced and accompany this report.

#### CONCLUSION

7. Overall, an excellent exchange, the students were extremely good ambassadors for Manly and several of them have expressed an interest in returning to Japan in the near future. I have enclosed a summary of the feedback from students and parents expressing their ideas and some areas that could be improved. I recommend that 3 chaperones be considered for future exchanges, especially when there are 20 students or more. I would like to thank Elaine and Fiona for their tireless efforts in co-ordinating the various events.

### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS - FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

- A fantastic life changing experience, great Japanese cultural experience. Helped Manly students with speaking Japanese. Good to have Japanese student email addresses so could write to them before meeting them.
- b. Manly and Japanese students really enjoyed spending time together and the activities e.g. Race around the city made new friends both from Japan and with the group of students from Manly. Enjoyed having Japanese student stay with them. Manly students enjoyed staying with their Japanese host families and interacting with them.
- c. Virtual Exchanges have been beneficial for students to see and talk to each other before meeting them. The exchange was the best thing I've done in my life. Student meetings to be more structured, less of them but longer, perhaps 3 meetings x 2 hour duration instead of weekly 1 hour meeting where the Manly students get to know each other better.
- d. Manly Chaperones to know some Japanese or have one person who is fluent in Japanese. Programme was too short extend it to 2 weeks including 2 whole weekends. More free time in Odawara, more free time in Tokyo to shop, more free time in Manly to show Japanese students around. More activities like the race around the city and Queenscliff BBQ, so Japanese students and Manly students get to spend time together. Shirt sizing to be more organised. Set up longer tables at Farewell Dinner, at the Balgowlah Bowling Club so more families and students can sit together.

Sue O'Brien