

Media Release

10 March 2022

Art meets science as Sister City friendship celebrates significant milestone

The Gladstone Region and Japan's Saiki City will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of friendship with a workshop and artwork unveiling on Thursday 17 March.

Both events will be centred around shorebirds, which are used to symbolise how the people of Australia and Japan are connected.

Gladstone Region Councillor and Saiki Sister City Advisory Committee member Desley O'Grady said the day will take flight from 2pm at Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum (GRAGM), where *The Art and Science of Shorebirds Workshop* will take place with bird expert Allan Briggs and artist Margaret Worthington.

"Allan will share his insight and knowledge into the amazing migration of shorebirds, while Margaret will oversee an art workshop where attendees will have an opportunity to practise drawing birds and then create a watercolour painting," Councillor O'Grady said.

"Materials will be supplied for the art workshop, but spaces are limited so please RSVP via Council's online [Conversations](#) platform or call the Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre on 4976 6300."

At 4.30pm the public are invited to the Saiki Shorebird Artwork Unveiling at the Gladstone Regional Council Civic Centre (101 Goondoon Street).

Cr O'Grady said this event will involve the unveiling of three stainless steel bird shapes created by Margaret Worthington and Clive Rouse.

"These bird shapes represent the three migratory shorebird species that are seen in the Gladstone Harbour – a bar-tailed godwit, far eastern curlew and grey-tailed tattler," she said.

"These birds can travel over 11,000km during migration and are known to travel via Japan on their trip south.

"These species can be identified by their distinct beak shape in Margaret and Clive's contemporary artwork."

RSVP is required for both events. Proof of vaccination will be required for GRAGM workshop attendees only, in line with current Queensland Government health directives.

Visit <https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/saiki-shorebird-artwork> to RSVP to one or both events.

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/sister-city-program to learn more about the Sister City Program.

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For further information contact Council's Brand and Communications Team on 4970 0700 or media@gladstone.qld.gov.au