



City of **HOBART**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council seeks community involvement in 40 year celebrations with Japanese Sister City Yaizu

The City of Hobart is seeking community participation in a delegation travelling to Yaizu, Japan later this year.

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey said: “It will be a great honour to be leading a delegation to Yaizu to celebrate a significant milestone, that is, the 40th Anniversary of our longest-standing Sister City friendship.

“40 years is a magnificent achievement and our connection with Yaizu is very dear to us as our first and oldest sister city friendship. The relationship connects our cities in many ways but it is the people connectivity that keeps it alive.

“It is important to the Council that members of the community are also provided with the opportunity to join the delegation so not only are we seeking community and business interest in joining the delegation at their cost but the Council is also part-funding four community members to come along,” said the Lord Mayor.

Applications are invited for the part-funded places on the basis of a contribution of 50 per cent toward travel costs of an airfare, accommodation and airport transfers and applicants will need to meet three criterion:

- Demonstrable involvement in Hobart – Yaizu or Australia Japan relationship building activities.
- Demonstrable personal interest in Yaizu or Japan including study, personal visits etc
- Details of how the person will come back and share their experiences in Yaizu with the wider community in Hobart.

Deputy Lord Mayor and Chairman of the Council’s Economic Development and Communications Committee, Alderman Ron Christie said: “Hobart and Yaizu’s sister city relationship has grown from mutual fishing interests and has flourished to include cultural, educational and business links that unite our different cultures.

“In recent years the relationship has been maintained through exchange of school students in Yaizu and Hobart as well as activities involving the Australia Japan Society, the University of Tasmania, and numerous other organisations.

“The delegation to Japan in August has been planned to coincide with the City of Yaizu’s famous Ara Matsuri Festival and I encourage members of the community who have or have had a special relationship-building involvement with Hobart and Yaizu or Australia and Japan to consider joining the delegation,” said the Deputy Lord Mayor.

For more information and details on how to submit an expression of interest, visit http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Hobart/Sister_Cities/Yaizu

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