



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Hobart celebrates 40 years of sisterhood with Yaizu**

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The City of Hobart and the Japanese city of Yaizu are celebrating 40 years as sister cities this month, with a free Japanese festival, public artwork and gardening assistance.

Hobart Lord Mayor, Sue Hickey, is encouraging Tasmanians to visit the free Japanese festival at Waterside Pavilion, Mawson Place on the Hobart waterfront on Saturday 4 February between 9 am and 3 pm.

“The festival will be a great showcase of Japanese culture,” the Lord Mayor said.

“There will be samurai demonstrations, bonsai displays, origami lessons, drumming, delicious food and the chance to dress in traditional Japanese kimono or yukata.

“About 30 people are coming out from Yaizu to help celebrate the 40 year anniversary, including two gardeners to instruct the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens on how to care for its Japanese garden.

“The garden was designed by a landscape architect from Yaizu 30 years ago, so it’s timely for our gardeners to receive refresher training on how to care for the plants.

“Another key element of the sister city relationship is the student exchanges that have been happening for the past 28 years.

“We are installing artwork created by local students and visiting Yaizu students in our Soapbox billboards in Mathers Place later this year.

“We have also published a commemorative booklet for all the students and host families that have been involved in the program,” the Lord Mayor said.

The formal sister city relationship came about in recognition of the strong bonds that developed between Yaizu fishermen and locals during the 1960s and 1970s when the Yaizu fishing fleet used to harbour in Hobart.

**Picture opportunities:**

- Saturday 4 February, 9 am – 3 pm, Waterside Pavilion (Japanese festival)
- Sunday 5 February, 2.15–3 pm, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (Official tree planting ceremony).

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