



Media Release - 14th February

# Darwin City Council

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## Territorians to 'invade' Anchorage

Darwin City Council will send a Mayoral Delegation to Anchorage, Alaska USA, in June this year. In addition to the Lord Mayor, nominated Elected and Committee Members, the delegation will also include Darwin business, health, education, youth, welfare, and fire service community representatives.

Council is keen to further progress business opportunities afforded by the sister City relationship, in particular as an avenue to introduce NT products and services.

Lord Mayor, Peter Adamson said " Showcasing NT food produce and other products and services are high on our agenda. Anchorage has their famous Fall Harvest Beer and Food Festival (an annual event) and initially we will be looking at ways to import such things as the Darwin Stubbie and mangoes for display at the festival.

" We are fortunate to have the backing of the business sector and support of the Chamber of Commerce and the International Business Council to promote longer term market and trade development".

Another project, a sports program, to be followed up by the Mayoral Delegation grew out of the Principal's Exchange project and coaching kits for netball, rugby and hockey will be taken to Alaska to be introduced in one of the schools there. This visit will also provide an opportunity to promote sport in young, remote and indigenous communities, learn about their Native Youth Olympics and look to possible future participation in our Arafura Games.

The Lord Mayor went on to say "When we called for expressions of interest earlier in the year to join Council and Committee members on the Anchorage Sister Cities delegation, we were surprised by how many people wanted to join us on a self funded basis and the diversity of their programs."

As a result of the call for expressions of interest to join the delegation, the following people will be invited to travel to Anchorage:

Sue Hanson, Managing Director, Hanson Training Services

Penny Mclay, Registered Nurse

Christine Doidge, Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia

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Ali McLay, Manager, Alcohol And Other Drugs Services  
Sue Wainwright, Executive Officer, Playgroup Association NT Inc.  
Maree Bredhauer, Principal of Giraween Primary School.

Another exchange program is the Fire Officer Exchange. An email was received earlier this year from Rodney Harris, an Anchorage Fire Officer who previously visited Darwin through the Fire Officer's Exchange Program. The email read; "We have the next firefighter exchange up and going with a commencement date of July 1. The Fire Chief here has extended an invite to Bruce Mouatt, the Director of NT fire there in Darwin to come to Anchorage with the Sister City delegation from Darwin. Please keep him posted of your plans."

Though the Patchworkers & Quilters do not wish to send a representative with the delegation, they wish to utilise the delegation to send an exhibition of quilts produced in the NT to Anchorage. The quilts will be A3 sized and are on the topic "Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot". These quilts will become a travelling exhibition, and several Australian Groups have already requested them. The group wish the delegation to take the suitcase containing the quilts to Anchorage for display.

While this will be one of the largest delegations to visit a sister city, only three members will be funded under the Sister Cities Program, funding for other Sister City Committee members and Elected Members will be provided by a combination of self-funding, fundraising efforts and allowances and those members of the community who will join the delegation will be on a totally self funded basis. At this stage 'Home Stay' accommodation is being sourced for all delegates.

For those who might ask why Darwin has a relationship with Anchorage, consider this, despite the extreme opposites in climate, both cities have rugged terrain, passionately follow outdoor sports, globally acclaimed national parks, mining histories, strong indigenous cultures, Captain Cook, wilderness survival stories, military presence, World War II experiences, mosquitos and deadly wildlife.

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Background information about Community Delegates is attached.

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**Date:** Tuesday 14th February 2006

**Contact:** Judie Brennan 8930 0516 or 0416 202 215

## Anchorage Community Delegates - June 2006

Sue Hanson - Managing Director - Hanson Training Services

The company has won Telstra Small Business of the Year Award 2004, NT Training Provider of the Year 2005, and Sue was NT Finalist in the Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award 2005. Sue wishes to join the delegation in the 'educational development' area. Sue is keen to open up their markets in North America, particularly Alaska, and is especially interested in remote sectors as their main client group in Australia is Indigenous training.

Penny Mclay - Registered Nurse

Penny is due to undertake Midwifery training in 2006 and as part of her training a remote placement is required. Penny is interested in specifically looking at the remote health system in Alaska and how their birthing, antenatal and postnatal practices compare with ours.

Christine Doidge - Chief Commissioner – Scouts Australia

Chris wishes to join the delegation to further progress projects relating to "2007 is 100 years of Scouting" and the "Australian Gift for Peace" project. This project has been running for some time, and Scouts from each area/city worldwide are already in contact with the Scout group in their Sister City. Chris wishes to begin developing that same project here in Darwin utilising the Sister Cities Program, and believes visiting Anchorage would provide her with the opportunity to further progress these projects.

Ali McLay - Manager – Alcohol And Other Drugs Services

As the Manager of the NT Government Alcohol & Other Drugs Services, Ali is interested in visiting and exploring similarities and strategies between Anchorage and the NT. Anchorage's principle drug problem is alcohol, similar to the NT, and has implemented Drug Courts and other treatment options similar to the NT's current and future direction.

Sue Wainwright - Executive Officer – Playgroup Association NT Inc.

Playgroup NT has recently developed a unique resource for families with young children called 'Playgroup in a box'. This resource was initially developed to service families in the territory isolated by distance, geography and cost to travel to community centres. They would like the chance to present opportunities offered by this resource to families in Alaska in similar circumstances and to exchange ideas and learn from them how they service families both in the city and more remote areas.

Maree Bredhauer, Principal of Giraween Primary School,

In addition, the delegation will include representatives from existing exchange programs such as the Principal's Exchange. Maree Bredhauer, Principal of Giraween Primary School, registered her interest in being part of a Principal's Exchange with Anchorage after a call for Expressions of Interest was sent out by the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) last year. Since that time, both Maree and Lisa Prince-Smith, Principal of Wonderpark Elementary in Anchorage, have exchanged regular correspondence to further progress this project. Both Principals have committed to undertake the exchange, with the dates yet to be confirmed. Maree has expressed an interest in co-coordinating her visit to Anchorage with the Darwin City Council delegation. Whilst in Anchorage, Maree will liaise with Lisa on other Sister City Projects, such as the Sports and Email Exchange Projects to be undertaken by both Wonderpark Elementary and Giraween Primary Schools.