



**Mackay Matsuura
Youth Ambassador
Program**



**Information Booklet
and
Code of Conduct**



CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.0 MATSUURA.....	4
3.0 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	4
4.0 YOUTH AMBASSADOR GROUP	6
5.0 AGREEMENT.....	7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Mackay Matsuura Sister City relationship was formed in 1989. Today the relationship is a cultural one but was founded on the common interest in coal.

One of the cultural exchange programs of the sister city relationship is annual visits between Mackay and Matsuura school students.

The purpose of the visit is to strengthen our cities' ties and expose Mackay and Matsuura students with each other's cultures.

Some of the benefits to participants in the program are:

- > Exposure to a unique cultural experience
- > Opportunity to learn new life skills and make new friends

The Mackay Matsuura exchange involves a group of years 10, 11 and 12 Mackay students visiting Japan for two weeks during the school holidays. The visit includes a 7-day home-stay in Matsuura. The Youth Ambassadors are accompanied by two adult chaperones. Mackay Regional Council offers a Scholarship which provides Mackay school students with \$1000 to offset the cost of travel to Matsuura.

Every year Matsuura City sends a group of Japanese students aged between 13 - 17 years accompanied by two chaperones to Mackay for approximately eight days. Mackay Regional Council arranges home-hosts and activities for the students whilst they are here.

2.0 ABOUT MATSUURA

Location:

Northern part of Kyushu Island – Japan. Matsuura is a city located in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan. Matsuura City is bordered on three sides by mountains. Matsuura Bay, which leads to the Genkai Sea, makes up the fourth side.

Economy:

Matsuura is located in a primarily rural area, with several industrial companies located near the city centre including a steel works, a commercial fish market, and a regional power plant. The amount of catch at Matsuura fish market is about 89,294 tons.

Other Information:

Matsuura City amalgamated with Fukushima Town and Takashima Town on 1 January 2006.

Main Religion:

Buddhism, Shinto

Other Minor Religions:

Bahá'í Faith, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Ryukyuan and Sikhism.

City's Flower: Camellia



Comparison	Matsuura	Mackay
History	Traced back to the 13 th Century	Settled in 1862
Area	130.28 sq kms	2,897.5 sq kms
Population	27,000	120,000 (2013)
Industries	Fishery, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Energy (Power Plant, Base of LP Gas)	Mining services and technology, Agriculture, Tourism, Marine services

3.0 YOUTH AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Mackay has a scholarship program whereby students in years 10 and 11 and 12 can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to go towards travel costs for a two-week cultural trip to Japan with 7 days spent in home-stays in Matsuura. The Scholarship Program has run since 2007.

Students have to apply to be considered for the Scholarship Program in June/July. Students should have an interest in Japan and its culture and be in years 10, 11 or 12 at the time of travel in order to be eligible.

To apply students are required to complete an Application Form which includes:

- An endorsement from their school
- A 500 word essay explaining their interest in Japan
- How students consider they will be ambassadors for the Mackay – Matsuura Sister City Program on their return from the exchange visit to Japan.

The Application Form is available on the Mackay Regional Council website http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/your_council/sister_cities/matsuura.

Student applications will be assessed by Mackay Regional Council and students will be shortlisted. Interviews will be conducted by a panel consisting of Mackay Regional Council Representatives and Chaperones, using selection criteria and relevant weightings as listed on the application form.

Successful scholarship applicants, namely the Youth Ambassadors, are required to attend fortnightly/monthly cultural sessions with the other group members and chaperones in the lead up to the trip. Closer to the departure date, weekly meetings maybe held. The purpose of these sessions is to prepare students to be ambassadors for Mackay and will include information on cultural practices, what to expect during home stays, etiquette in Japan etc. Attendance at these sessions is *compulsory*.

Students participating in the Mackay Matsuura exchange tour will be required to host students from Matsuura for a homestay in Mackay usually in July/August. Students are encouraged to attend Sister City events in Mackay prior to and after their visit to Matsuura.

Youth Ambassadors are required to prepare a report/presentation for Council on their return, detailing their experiences.

It is expected that students will honour their commitments in terms of being ambassadors for the Mackay Matsuura Sister City relationship.

4.0 YOUTH AMBASSADOR GROUP

In July/August each year Mackay welcomes a group of students and two chaperones from Matsuura who visit the region for 7-8 days. The students and their chaperones are home-hosted by families of students participating in the exchange program.

Students who have received scholarships for the Mackay - Matsuura exchange program are asked to host visiting Matsuura students. Family members over the age of 18 years must be holders of a Blue Card – Mackay Regional Council can help with organising Blue Cards.

Matsuura students are usually provided the opportunity to spend time at local schools, visits to local beaches and places of interest, a bush dance and art/craft workshops. These activities are arranged by Mackay Regional Council. Free time is allowed for the students to experience Australian family life with the host families.

5.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

A separate copy of the agreement will be provided for completion upon acceptance of your son/daughter into the Youth Ambassador Program.

DO NOT COMPLETE THE BELOW CODE OF CONDUCT PAPERWORK

AGREEMENT

DEED made.....this day of..... 2023.

BETWEEN: MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

of Gordon Street, Mackay in the State of Queensland (hereinafter together with its successors and assigns referred to as the "Council")

AND: The entity named at Item 3 of the Schedule

of the address specified at Item 4 of the Schedule in the State of Queensland (hereinafter together with its executors and administrators successors and assigns referred to as the "Parent" or "Guardian")

RECITALS

- A. The Council has selected the Student to take part in the Exchange.
- B. The Council will make the Contribution toward the Student's costs of taking part in the Exchange.
- C. The Parent or Guardian agrees that the Student's participation in the Exchange is subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Deed.
- D. The Parent or Guardian accepts that where the Student does not comply with the rules and conditions of the Exchange this may result in termination of the Student's participation in the Exchange and immediate return of the Student home to Australia, at the Parent or Guardian's expense.

OPERATIVE PART**1. INTERPRETATION & DEFINITIONS****1.1 INTERPRETATION**

In this Deed unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) a reference to any legislation or legislative provision includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of, or legislative provision substituted for, and any subordinate legislation issued under, that legislation or legislative provision;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (c) a reference to an individual or person includes a corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, authority, trust, state or government and vice versa;
- (d) a reference to any gender includes all genders;
- (e) a reference to a recital, clause, schedule, annexure or exhibit is to a recital, clause, schedule, annexure or exhibit of or to this deed;
- (f) a recital, schedule, annexure or a description of the parties forms part of this deed;

- (g) a reference to any deed or document is to that deed or document (and, where applicable, any of its provisions) as amended, novated, supplemented or replaced from time to time;
- (h) a reference to any party to this deed or any other document or arrangement includes that party's executors, administrators, substitutes, successors and permitted assigns; and
- (i) where an expression is defined, another part of speech or grammatical form of that expression has a corresponding meaning.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

In this Deed and the recitals to this Deed unless the context otherwise requires:

"Chaperone" means the chaperone/s accompanying the Student on the Exchange, nominated at the absolute discretion of the Council.

"Contribution" means the amount referred to in Item 5 of the Schedule.

"Council" means Mackay Regional Council.

"Exchange" means the Mackay-Matsuura Sister City Student Cultural exchange tour to Japan.

"Guardian" means the guardian of the Student named in Item 3 of the Schedule.

"Parent" means the parent of the Student named in Item 3 of the Schedule.

"Siblings" means siblings of the Student.

"Student" means the person named in Item 1 of the Schedule selected by Council to participate in the Exchange.

2. RULES AND CONDITIONS

2.1 The Parent or Guardian acknowledges that the Student's participation in the Exchange is subject to the Student complying with the following rules and conditions established by the Council:

- (a) The Student will be under the Chaperone's authority at all times during the Exchange and the Student must follow the directions of the Chaperone.
- (b) The Student must not smoke while on the Exchange.
- (c) The Student must not consume alcoholic beverages while on the Exchange as the Student will not be of legal age to consume alcohol.
- (d) The Student must not operate a motorised vehicle, including but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, and other watercraft, or participate in driver education programs, while on the Exchange.

- (e) The Student must not possess, acquire or use illegal drugs while on the Exchange.
- (f) The Student may possess while on the Exchange legal medications that are prescribed to the Student by a physician. All medication of this nature must be clearly labelled by a pharmacist and bear the Student's name. If the Student has a medical management plan, a copy of the plan needs to be provided to Mackay Regional Council.
- (g) The Student will not obtain any body piercing or tattoos while on the Exchange.
- (h) The Student must avoid serious romantic activity and sexual activity while on the Exchange.
- (i) The Student must wear culturally appropriate clothing at all times during the Exchange. No skimpy clothes- low cut tops, tight leggings/yoga pants, cheeky/short shorts or low cut jeans are not acceptable.
- (j) The Student's use of the internet when the Student is with a homestay families on the Exchange is to be limited, as advised in the cultural information sessions convened in preparation for the Exchange. Excessive or inappropriate use of the internet whilst on the Exchange, including accessing or downloading illegal or pornographic content, is expressly forbidden.
- (k) The Student must have comprehensive health and accident insurance that provides coverage for accidental injury and illness, death benefits (including repatriation of remains), disability/dismemberment benefits, emergency medical evacuation, emergency visitation expenses, 24-hour emergency assistance services, public and personal liability and legal services in amounts satisfactory to Council with coverage from the time of departure from Australia until return. The insurance will be arranged by Council from the Contribution. A copy of the Product Disclosure Statement will be supplied to each Student along with the cover note for the insurance.
- (l) The Student must have sufficient financial support to ensure the Student's well-being during the Exchange. The Student must manage budgeting of discretionary spending. Any cash, traveller's cheques or credit cards carried by the Student will at all times be the Student's personal responsibility. Council accepts no liability for the loss or theft of cash, traveller's cheques, debit/credit cards and other valuables while the Student is on the Exchange.
- (m) The Student must partake in all activities and tours outlined in the Exchange itinerary and make an honest attempt to interact with and enjoy the company of the host students and their families.
- (n) The Student must talk with their Chaperone or other trusted adult if they encounter any form of abuse or harassment, or have an issue with their host family or another member of the Exchange group while participating in the Exchange.
- (o) The Student must take responsibility for their own behaviour and show respect for themselves, their fellow students, Chaperones and hosts.
- (p) The Student must be punctual at all times.

- (q) The Student must always wear their allocated name tag.
- (r) The Student must always safely carry their passport, air ticket, wallet and camera while on the Exchange.
- (s) The Student should respect their host's reasonable requirements and be courteous at all times during the Exchange.
- (t) The Student is required to bring a gift for their host family and to write a letter of thanks.
- (u) The Student should communicate with their homestay family prior to leaving Australia. Council will provide to the Student and the Parent or Guardian contact details for all homestay families prior to departure.

2.2 Where the Student fails to comply with the rules and conditions of the Exchange as outlined in clause 2.1 above, or engages in conduct that the Chaperone considers at their absolute discretion to be undesirable and to the detriment of the Exchange, the Parent or Guardian agrees that:

- (a) The Student may, at the Chaperone's absolute discretion, be returned home to Australia prior to the scheduled conclusion of the Exchange; and
- (b) All costs associated with the Student's early return home will be met by the Parent or Guardian;

2.3 Where clause 2.2 applies:

- (a) the Parent or Guardian will be advised of the Chaperone's intention to return the Student home to Australia prior to the scheduled conclusion of the Exchange;
- (b) where the Parent or Guardian elects to accompany the Student on the return journey to Australia, the Parent or Guardian must notify the Chaperone of such election within 24 hours of receiving the advice referred to in clause 2.3(a); and
- (c) where the election is made under clause 2.3(b), the Parent or Guardian must be able to meet the Student at the collection point in Japan within 48 hours of receiving the advice referred to in clause 2.3(a). The collection point in Japan will be nominated by the Chaperone.

2.4 Where clause 2.2 applies but the Parent or Guardian does not make the election under clause 2.3(b), or makes the election under clause 2.3(b) but cannot satisfy clause 2.3(c), the Student will be returned home to Australia unaccompanied on the flight.

2.5 The Parent or Guardian agrees not to arrange extra activities for the Student that are not part of the Exchange itinerary determined by Council.

2.6 The Parent or Guardian agrees that the Student will be under the Chaperone's authority at all times during the Exchange and that any relatives the Student, Parent or Guardian may have in Japan will have no authority over the Student while they are on the Exchange.

2.7 The Parent or Guardian agrees that the siblings and relatives of the Student will not accompany the Student on the Exchange.

- 2.8 Prior to departure of the Student on the Exchange, the Council agrees to provide to the Parent or Guardian the Chaperone's mobile phone number for communication in emergencies during the Exchange.
- 2.9 The Parent or Guardian agrees to provide the Student with sufficient financial support to ensure the Student's wellbeing during the Exchange.

3. RELEASE AND INDEMNITY

- 3.1 The Parent or Guardian agrees that the Student participates in the Exchange at their own risk and releases the Council from all claims, rights of recourse, causes of action or demands due to any loss, death, damage or injury occurring to the Student while on the Exchange.
- 3.2 The Parent or Guardian agrees to indemnify the Council and continues to indemnify the Council from and against any liability, loss, damage, expense or claim which the Council may incur including to a third party arising from loss, damage or injury to property or person occurring as a consequence of the Student taking part in the Exchange.
- 3.3 The Parent or Guardian releases the Council from any claim, indemnity, right of recourse or cause of action whether for breach of contract or negligence of any nature whatsoever which the Student and/or the Parent or Guardian may have now or have in the future arising out of the Exchange.

4. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- 4.1 The Parent or Guardian acknowledges that they have entered into this Deed freely and voluntarily relying upon their own investigations and enquiries, having had the opportunity to seek independent advice.

5. GENERAL

5.1 WAIVER

The failure, delay, relaxation or indulgence on the part of any party in exercising any power or right given to that party under this deed does not operate as a waiver of that power or right, nor does any single exercise of a power or right under this Deed. A power or right may only be waived in writing, signed by the party to be bound by the waiver.

5.2 AMENDMENT

This Deed may only be amended or supplemented in writing, signed by the parties.

5.3 SEVERABILITY

Any provision in this Deed which is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction is to be read down for the purposes of that jurisdiction, if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable, and is otherwise capable of being severed to the extent of the invalidity or

unenforceability, without affecting the remaining provisions of this Deed or affecting the validity or enforceability of that provision in any other jurisdiction.

5.4 COUNTERPARTS

This Deed may be executed in any number of counterparts and all of those counterparts taken together constitute one and the same instrument.

5.5 LIABILITY OF PARTIES

If two or more parties are included within the same defined term in this Deed:

- (a) a liability of those persons under this Deed is a joint liability of all of them and a several liability of each of them;
- (b) a right given to those parties under this Deed is a right given severally to each of them; and
- (c) a representation, warranty or undertaking made by each of them is made by each of them in respect of itself.

6. LAW AND JURISDICTION

6.1 GOVERNING LAW

This Deed is governed by the law in force in the State of Queensland.

6.2 SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION

The parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Queensland and any courts which may hear appeals from those courts in respect of any proceedings in connection with this Deed.

EXECUTED AS A DEED

EXECUTED by the said Council MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said Parent or Guardian in the presence of
Witness:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

SCHEDULE 1

ITEM 1 – STUDENT NAME:

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

DATE:

ITEM 2 – STUDENT ADDRESS:

ITEM 3 - PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

DATE:

ITEM 4 - PARENT/GUARDIAN ADDRESS:

ITEM 5 - CONTRIBUTION: \$1,000 will offset the total tour costs and will be paid directly to the travel agent.