



MEDIA RELEASE

**Embargoed until 9.30pm
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Devonport Mayor Recognised with Meritorious Service Award

Devonport Mayor Steve Martin was tonight awarded a Meritorious Service Award, jointly coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and the Life Members of the Association. The Life Members Award for Meritorious Service was launched in 2011 to recognise individual service and significant achievements by an elected member.

In presenting the award at the LGAT Annual Conference Dinner, held at Wrest Point, Life Member, Lynn Mason commended all nominees for this year's award for having given excellent service to Local Government and to the Tasmanian community, some of them over many years.

"Steve Martin's nomination concentrated on his recent achievements, including a number of initiatives he has undertaken to improve the lives of people in his local community. He shone in the areas of raising the status of Local Government, entrepreneurship, innovation and community involvement," Mrs Mason said.

Steve Martin was elected to Devonport Council in 2009 and to the position of Mayor two years later. He made his name taking on causes to assist the local community. He has played a strong role in the creation of the East Devonport Child and Family Centre, in turning Devonport into a Learning Community, and in attracting the 2017 Australian Masters Games to the North West Coast. Mayor Martin also initiated the Mayor's Charity Gala in 2013 in an effort to raise funds to provide schools with the means to provide breakfast to students.

More recently, Mayor Martin has been leading the \$250 million Living City project - the largest urban renewal project ever undertaken in regional Tasmania - to revitalise the central business district of Devonport, creating a new hub for the City and jobs for the local community. He also volunteers in the community and for the past 20 years, has mentored a group of young people in the highly successful youth group, Enormity.

"While it is important that the Local Government Association of Tasmania recognises broader council activities that deliver a positive result for the communities they serve, the Life Members feel it is also appropriate to reward the work of an elected representative."

Mayor Martin received a trophy and \$300 to donate to the charity of his choice.

Ends....

**For media enquiries, please contact
Keryn Nylander, Nylander Consulting, on 0418 996 536.**