



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
11TH NILA HANSARD – 18 JANUARY 2006**

SPEAKER
Frank Mostyn to read Prayers

Honourable Members, Good morning. I invite the Rev

PRAYER

REV MOSTYN Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven may it please you to bless our most Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, by whose hand this Baton was sent out into the 71 Commonwealth nations including this island, Norfolk. We pray for the peace and welfare of all the lands it has travelled, for the hands and the hearts of all those who speed it on its way. May these Commonwealth Games forge new links of friendship and unity in the troubled times in which we live ever looking to you, the God of all hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this House, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island, Amen

SPEAKER Honourable Members, and guests please be seated. If people would be more comfortable without their jackets this warm morning, please feel free to divest yourselves. Honourable Members, just before the Baton arrives may I mention this, that when the Baton is brought to the chamber and is being received, there will be a photo opportunity whilst that is happening so those who have photographic means and would care to do that, that is a good opportunity. During the formal proceedings I would ask that people not leave their seats for photographic or those purposes, but may I also add that after we have adjourned the Baton will also be remaining in the vicinity for a short period and there will be additional photo opportunities there. Honourable Members, we await the arrival of the Baton

Honourable Members, please greet the Queen's Baton on its relay to the XVIII Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Thank you Honourable Members, please be seated. Honourable Members, it looks grand there I might say. The Queen's Baton arrived in Norfolk Island on Sunday, 15th January 2006. It was dispatched from Buckingham Palace from March 2005, and has been enthusiastically received, held, photographed, cheered and revered, in Norfolk Island. The Baton has progressed across most part of Norfolk island and will be well recognised by the Island's team of Bowlers, Squash players and shooters, who will represent Norfolk Island at Melbourne's Commonwealth Games. Norfolk Island is an enthusiastic participant amongst the 71 countries in the Commonwealth Games. We are small in size and numbers amongst these great nations – but we possess enthusiasm beyond our weight. Her Majesty The Queen is Head of the Commonwealth. She will open the Games in Melbourne in March. Each year, with some pride and purpose, Her Commonwealth Day message is read, among these Commonwealth nations, including in this Parliament - messages with themes such as "Education" and "Building a Commonwealth of Freedom", to quote from the last two years.

The Commonwealth is a unique, esteemed international group of nations who value the Parliamentary democratic process. Some have a long history, which spells out their growth as a people. Norfolk Island again on a more modest scale, celebrates its making of a people here in Norfolk Island, at 150 years in 2006 – our Sesquicentenary. The Reception of the Queen's Baton today, is historic. It's not only the first occasion ever, to have made this journey to Norfolk Island, but also the first Parliament of the Commonwealth, to formally acknowledge the Baton on its journey. This has been achieved in the Island's Sesquicentenary year. Its journey, and the joy it has brought to people in Norfolk Island – residents and visitors alike – has added a significant dimension to our celebrations. On this auspicious occasion, Chief Minister I offer you the opportunity to speak this morning

MR GARDNER

Thank you Mr Speaker. What a week it's been. The last few days have been a tremendously exciting experience for everybody I believe on the island and so too for our visitors, Mr Speaker that we are welcoming here this morning. Mr Speaker thank you for your kind words of welcome to the Queen's Baton to this Chamber today and as you've already stated there are a couple of firsts that have been achieved. The first time a Baton has visited Norfolk Island, tied up with the Commonwealth Games Federation. The first time that the Baton so I understand has entered a Commonwealth Parliament and been received into a Commonwealth Parliament but there is one other thing Mr Speaker, a very unusual thing. It is probably the first time an inanimate object has warranted the drawing together of a ceremonial sitting of a Parliament anywhere on the face of the planet. Mr Speaker but the question is, is this thing alive or not? Some would probably argue it may well be. You only have to look at the technology involved in this. The lights, the cameras, the microphones which caught a few people off guard over the last few days, they weren't quite sure of some of the comments that they were making, whether they were being broadcast around the face of the planet, but also, it has a global positioning satellite thingy within it, which is able to tell the rest of the world exactly where it is and if you follow the links through the Melbourne Commonwealth Games site 2006 you will see that Norfolk Island stands proud on that website as being where the Baton is today and the rest of the world can see that very clearly by accessing that website. Mr Speaker I know over the last few days there's been a lot of comment about how far this Baton has travelled, some 180,000 kilometres or thereabouts. A lot has been made of the fact that we Norfolk Island are the 69th country that the Baton has visited in its journey of 71 nations, with only New Zealand and Australia remaining. It has been accompanied by a great crew of people since it departed the United Kingdom back in March or April thereabouts of 2005 and in this part of the world it has been accompanied by very dear friends, now I like to refer to them as, who have accompanied this Baton to Norfolk Island and through Oceania. Firstly led by Mr John Tierney who is the Vice President Oceania of the Commonwealth Games Federation. This is his second visit to Norfolk Island following I think a very brief visit to Norfolk Island back in 2001 for the South Pacific Mini Games that were hosted here and it's a very warm welcome back to the John to Norfolk Island today and we are sad to be saying farewell to him as well today. To Jesse who is the Manager of Operations of this event and who has been busily working with the Organising Committee on the island, a very warm welcome to you. Thanks for taking the time and thanks for your extending of the hand of friendship to so many people on Norfolk Island, it has been appreciated. To Jerry the photographer, he's had a great deal of fun and that can certainly be witnessed by visiting the Games site and having a look at the Norfolk Island images that are on that Games site this morning. Some tremendous photographs, again, plastered around the world and certainly will make some significant talking points amongst many of our island friends and certainly our colleagues in the Commonwealth Games Federation. You've done a tremendous job and thank you very much for that, it's been outstanding. To Brian in charge of security, a very warm welcome to you. He's the man who's charged with making sure this thing sleeps with him every night

and nowhere else. He has to almost have a leash on this thing, or I think it may be the other way round, maybe the leash is on Brian to make sure he doesn't get too far away from the Baton but he's had an onerous task over a long period of time now to ensure the security of this Baton. It is one of a kind. It's been through many thousands of hands on its way around the globe and Brian has been a great caretaker of it and will deliver it safely I'm sure to Melbourne in March for the opening of the Games. Brian to you as a Member of the Victorian Police Force could I extend our sympathies and thoughts to you and your colleagues in the Victorian Police Force for the tragic loss that was suffered by some of your colleagues in Egypt just recently. To, also Les and Leah Kausemann who are here with us this morning. Some special people as far as Norfolk Island is concerned. They will be our attaches for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Melbourne. They have undertaken the journey to Norfolk Island to be here with us as we celebrate the arrival of the Baton in Norfolk Island and they will be the caretakers of the Norfolk Island team in Melbourne. Thank you for making the effort and we really look forward to working very closely with you over the next few months to ensure the success of Norfolk Island's visit to Melbourne. There are a couple of other things I would just like to mention in relation to Les and Leah. They are from the city of Stonnington in Melbourne which covers the suburbs of Prahan and Melvin I believe. It has long historical connections with Norfolk Island believe it or not as Les made very clear to me the other day. Major Anderson whose name sits atop some of the second settlement buildings in Norfolk Island is actually a person from the city of Stonnington originally so there is a very close connection between that city and Norfolk Island and an appropriate connection in relation to the Commonwealth Games. Mr Speaker as I said these wonderful people have arrived as strangers in this place only a short few days ago. They will depart as new firm friends and I'm sure that those friendships will remain true and strong for many years to come. Thanks to you all for the wonderful friendship that you have brought to us. It's really been tremendously appreciated. Mr Speaker the promotion of this event has been on a world wide basis and Norfolk Island has been successful in cornering the market as far as promotion within the newspapers in recent days in both Australia and New Zealand. It has featured widely in both the Australian and New Zealand press. There have been many articles in relation to the arrival of the Baton and certainly with Puss very proudly splashed across the front of many of those publications I think it is something that he and his crew will be very proud of for many years to come. It's been a tremendous promotion for Norfolk Island. It's important to point out Mr Speaker as I think some in the popular press may have indicated, that Norfolk Island is not a side door entry to Australia for the Baton. Norfolk Island stands alone in the Commonwealth as one of the 71 Member Associations of the Commonwealth Games Federation. Norfolk Island and her sports men and women are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Members of the Commonwealth Games Federation on an equal footing. Mr Speaker the tourism experience has been tremendous for many. I heard the other day that there was a couple here from Canada who travelled all the way from Canada to be in Norfolk Island with us and were ecstatic that they had the opportunity to touch Her Majesty's Baton and have their photographs taken with it. That will be a memory that will live with them for the rest of their lives as I'm sure it will live with many on Norfolk Island who have had the opportunity to host and cradle the Baton over the last few days. A very uplifting experience Mr Speaker, a positive and moving experience for some. At the function that I was at last night I related to a number of people that a couple of elderly folk of Norfolk Island had relayed to me the very moving experience that the opportunity of the visit of the Baton to Norfolk Island had created for them. one that they had not experienced in very many years. That's the secret of success for this Baton. It has been a tremendous experience for the whole island and every person that has come in contact with it. It's been touched by so many Mr Speaker from baby Natalie Williams, who was at that time I believe, the youngest Norfolk Islander right through to Ruby Mathews, our oldest Norfolk Islander and everybody in between has had an

Association, the Commonwealth Games Federation. They've worked extremely hard to achieve that and to maintain that. I would also like to congratulate all those who have actually participated. Whilst people may think it's a great thing to go to these Games, there's a lot of work involved, there's a lot of putting yourself through the tests along the way, and the results may not be as good as people may wish them to be but however, they have achieved and we continue to achieve by participation because participation in sport is the main object of any sport and winning is only supplementary I believe however, Mr Speaker I congratulate those people over the years who have worked so hard for this. I congratulate those who have actually achieved the bringing of the Baton to Norfolk Island. I understand this is the first time it's gone to all the nations and it's really important when I read the website a couple of days ago and it says that the last foreign place it will visit, this is from the Australian website, I think that's the words they use, would be Christchurch in New Zealand either today or tomorrow before it comes into Australia so to me, it's a wonderful thing that the local Association has pulled off and I thank them very for it. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER

Mr John Tierney, who is the Oceania Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Federation and who accompanies this Baton. May I say to him on your behalf again, to endorse the words of the Chief Minister, Mr Tierney a very warm welcome to you in the Chamber here this morning and I offer you the opportunity to address us

MR TIERNEY

Mr Speaker, Chief Minister and Members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. Thank you. It's a pleasure and an honour to be received in session of the 11th Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island and indeed on behalf of Jesse, Jerry and Brian, the Commonwealth Games Federation and Melbourne 2006 Organising Committee, I would like to give you all a huge vote of thanks of behalf of the Commonwealth Games Federation and Melbourne 2006 for the particular way in which Norfolk Island has celebrated this Queen's Baton Relay. Commonwealth Sport, the Commonwealth Games Federation, Melbourne 2006 are all about advancing individuals through sport and advancing the ideals of the Commonwealth through sport and as I have said a couple of times in your wonderful country, sport is probably the one recognizable manifestation of the Commonwealth that everybody can relate to. Our Commonwealth sports that are played throughout the 71 countries of the Commonwealth are those same sports that you play here. You are a significant Member of the Commonwealth Games Federation having joined recently in 1986 in Edinburgh and Scotland. As a country you are a respected Member at our Assemblies whose views are considered and sought after and indeed on the sporting field you are a country to not be considered lightly, a country to be considered as a serious and significant competitor and you have shown with your participation and sports of shooting, lawn bowls, squash and athletics, these sports which in themselves at Commonwealth level are very much world class competitions, we have seen some wonderful competition from the Norfolk Island sports people. It's perhaps also important to note that the Commonwealth Games are really not the only multi sport event or major event that your sports people participate in, because I do know that you have world champions within your sports people, that they have gained world competitions and I would very much like to congratulate Dennis Sterling and Members of the Norfolk Island Commonwealth Games Association and the sports people of Norfolk Island for their successes and performances over the years in Commonwealth Sport. I think you would also agree with me that sport is more than just recreational leisure activity. It is the pursuit of excellence. It is indeed an opportunity for humanity to participate essentially as volunteers in the improvement of our way of life. Sport is a catalyst for health, for education, for social welfare and for the feelings of satisfaction and the lifestyle and the communities in which we live.

For small island countries and in the Commonwealth Games essentially the majority of Members would fall into that category. Sport is a very significant and essential component of a satisfied, successful and highly motivated Commonwealth of Nations. I therefore have one wish that I would like to pass to you all, to Dennis and his organisation, to the sports people of Norfolk Island, indeed to Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Norfolk Island and that is, that you use sport, that you fulfill the opportunities that sport creates for you, that you use sport in crafting and developing your destiny. It is full of values, it is a value driven activity, it is an appropriate partner for Governments. What sport needs is investment and facilities and venues, and perhaps more particularly, the development of junior sport, the development of techniques of coaching, of training, and if we consider those for a movement and consider what the outcomes and what the benefits might be of a genuine partnership between a private and public partnership as we call them these days, between sport and government, sport and the community, we develop people who have integrity, who understand fair play, who gain confidence, who are tolerant to other people, who learn to be a team player, who gain respect from their peers and their fellow sports people. They learn to strive further, to strive longer, to strive harder for excellence. They can accept defeat. They recognise the value of trust and honesty when they are competing with their fellow Members. I would like therefore to congratulate the sports people of Norfolk Island because you people have shown those values, in delivering your sport. I would also like to flag the possibility of enrafting your destiny. One thing that's been very noticeable to me hear is the fact that a lot of people have said what a wonderful south Pacific Mini Games the Norfolk Games were, weren't they John? And when do you think we could ever host them again? Is what they've said to me. I certainly have been very positive and supportive of that notion but I give you another suggestion for destiny. The Commonwealth Games have the Commonwealth Youth Games. The next ones are being held in Delhi in 2008 and I'm sure Dennis and his sports people will actually have youth of Norfolk Island attending those Games in Delhi in 2008 and I'm sure some of those sports youth might even move on to be at the full Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010 but beyond that we have the Youth Games scheduled for 2011 in the Isle of Man. Not a very large country. I'm sure some of us have been to the Isle of Man. I could draw some similarities between the Isle of Man and Norfolk Island and I ask you, where are the Commonwealth Youth Games of 2014 going to be hosted because I in my current capacity as the Vice President for Oceania would love them to be in Oceania Ladies and Gentlemen. Sports people of Norfolk Island. And I am not being silly or facetious in suggesting that. The Games that have just been held, the Youth Games just held in Bendigo Victoria Australia had 1080 athletes from around the Commonwealth. They competed in eight sports and I can tell you for me it was almost better than all the Commonwealth Games that I've ever been to all put together because when you have the opportunity to see our Commonwealth Youth competing in sport it is something special and something to remember and to dream of so I don't think those numbers are very difficult and very different to Norfolk Island. So I suggest that there's many goals for us all and many opportunities where sport and the objectives of the community and the Government can actually genuinely come together to craft our future and our destiny. Thank you Norfolk Island. Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Chief Minister. Thank you Member of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly for honouring us today. Thank you Dennis. Thank you to your organising committee for the Queen's Baton Relay. Thank you to the community and people of Norfolk Island. We have experienced a truly wonderful spirit of the Commonwealth in action in a wonderful environment as a Member of the Commonwealth family. Thank you very much

SPEAKER

Mr Tierney thank you. Thank you for addressing us this morning. We have been delighted to greet you and the Queen's Baton on its journey. We wish you well in completing the Baton's Relay to Melbourne in March for the XVIII

Commonwealth Games. Honourable Members, the clerk will now pass the Queen's Baton to Mr Tierney and he will withdraw from the Chamber.

Thank you Honourable Members, please be seated. Honourable Members, in a moment I will call for a motion of adjournment but before I do that may I say to our guests who are in the gallery this morning that when we do adjourn we will be delighted if you would join us for morning tea, which is just in the Committee Room adjacent to this Chamber. A motion of adjournment

FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

MRS BOUDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 15 February 2006 at 10.00 am

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I was just wondering if I could move a motion to take it to the 22nd Mr Speaker. I'll be off the island on the 15th

SPEAKER We have an adjustment. Mrs Boudan are you prepared to just adjust that motion or would you like it to come as a formal amendment

MRS BOUDAN I'm prepared to adjust it Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Is there any discussion on this matter because it may not have been a date that has been canvassed with all Members. We are proposing now the 22nd. Let me look around and see. Okay then. Any further discussion. The motion before us Honourable Members, is that our next sitting day be Wednesday 22 February 2006 at 10.00 am. The question is that, that motion be agreed to and I put that question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Ayes have it. On that basis Honourable Members, we will stand adjourned until our next sitting day which is Wednesday the 22nd February 2006 at 10.00 in the morning

