



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
14TH NILA HANSARD – 23 DECEMBER 2013**

SPEAKER Honourable Members, Good morning. I invite the Rev. Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones to read Prayers

PRAYER

REV MOSTYN Let us pray. 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 XXI Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland

Thank you Honourable Members, please be seated. Honourable Members, it looks grand there I might say. The Queen's Baton arrived in Norfolk Island and today is formally acknowledged. It was dispatched from Buckingham Palace 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 Glasgow'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 Glasgow. 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 past 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 is on a more modest scale. The Baton's journey, and the joy it has brought to people in Norfolk Island – residents and visitors alike. Chief Minister I offer you the opportunity to speak this morning

MR SNELL 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. 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 and in this part of the world it has been accompanied by very dear friends. 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 Glasgow. 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 Scotland. I extend the very best wishes and every success to our team who will be participating in Glasgow at the XX Commonwealth Games, to our Lawn Bowlers, Clay Target Association, Pistol Shooters and Squash Team, every success and to the management every success. Thank you very much and thanks for your time

SPEAKER Honourable Members, I offer you an opportunity to speak on this unique occasion

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The positive way the Queen's Baton has bought the community together is the most mentioned observation from the community. There is a tremendous sense of pride in being a real part of the Queen's Baton relay, of such a great event. All those Members of this community who have held the Baton, walked or run with it, have been part of this huge overall picture that culminates in the Commonwealth Games and just as this Baton has brought our community together the Games brings the community's of the Commonwealth together to compete on the sporting arena. Mr Speaker to be ambassadors for your country is a great honour and so to those Norfolk Islanders who have the privilege combined with a high degree of sporting ability required to compete at the Commonwealth Games level, I wish you well in your endeavours and that goals set are goals achieved. Thank you

SPEAKER Mr Michael Hooper, who is the Chief Executive Officer 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 Hooper a very warm welcome to you in the Chamber here this morning and I offer you the opportunity to address us

MR HOOPER 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 14th Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island and indeed on behalf of Jesse, Jerry and Brian, the Commonwealth Games Federation and Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee, I would like to give you all a huge vote of thanks of behalf of the Commonwealth Games Federation and Glasgow 2014 for the particular way in which Norfolk Island has celebrated this Queen's Baton Relay. Commonwealth Sport, the Commonwealth Games Federation, Glasgow 2014 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 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 Hooper 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 Glasgow for the XX Commonwealth Games. Honourable Members, the clerk will now pass the Queen's Baton to Mr Hooper and he will withdraw from the Chamber.

Thank you Honourable Members, please be seated. Honourable Members, we have a small matter to attend to this morning and I would ask our guests who are in the gallery this morning to please bear with us for a moment longer. I call on Presentation of Paper

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I take this opportunity to table the Norfolk Island Annual Report for 2012-2013

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Snell. Any further Papers for presentation this morning. No. We move on

FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 10.00 am

SPEAKER Is there any further debate? The motion before us Honourable Members, is that our next sitting day be Wednesday 19th February 2014 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 19th February 2014 at 10.00 in the morning

