

NORFOLK



ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Norfolk Island prepares for the visit of the HMAS *Sirius*

Norfolk Island Chief Minister David Buffett has released more details about community events to mark the visit of the HMAS *Sirius* from Friday 2nd March to Monday 5th March.

HMAS *Sirius* was officially named at a ceremony in Western Australia in September 2006. This visit will be her first to Norfolk Island, which has undertaken to “adopt” the ship as its own, while the Royal Australian Navy has designated Norfolk Island as the ship’s home port. HMAS *Sirius* is the first Royal Australian Navy vessel to bear the name of the flagship of the First Fleet, HMS *Sirius*, which was wrecked off Norfolk Island in 1790.

“It will be our privilege and pleasure to ceremonially present the Freedom of Norfolk Island to the ship on Saturday 3rd March”, Mr Buffett said. “All members of the community are invited to attend the colourful presentation and street march and I hope that many people will also take the chance to get to know members of the ship’s company during the more informal parts of this visit”.

The programme for Saturday 3rd March will include:

10.30 a.m.: **Ceremony on the Post Office lawn**

Arrival of the ship’s company
Arrival of the Maritime Commander and ship’s Commanding Officer
Official welcome by the Chief Minister and presentation of an official scroll and key to symbolise the Freedom of Norfolk Island
Response from the Commanding Officer.

10.50 a.m.: **Street march**

Commanding Officer and ship’s company march through Burnt Pine Challenge at the roundabout
Taking of salute on Taylors Road
March to the RSL carpark

These events will be accompanied by the band from HMAS *Sirius*. There will be an amplified commentary and simultaneous live broadcast on Radio Norfolk.

The Chief Minister said that there would be plenty of opportunities for the people of Norfolk Island to mix with the members of the ship’s company totalling 60 personnel. Many would be

on leave for much of the visit and would be taking part in informal sports and social events. Sporting clubs who would like to offer hospitality are invited to telephone 22003.

The Norfolk Island Government and the Administrator are also organising a number of events to mark this important occasion. To acknowledge the link with the original HMS *Sirius*, First Fleet or First Settlement descendants living on Norfolk Island who wish to attend one of the proposed events are invited to contact the Office of the Administrator on telephone 22152 or the Office of the Chief Minister on telephone 22003.

David E Buffett
Chief Minister

23rd February 2007