



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

HMAS *Sirius* to receive Freedom of Entry to Norfolk Island

The Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, the Hon David Buffett AM, will accord the ceremonial Freedom of Entry to Norfolk Island, to the HMAS *Sirius* this Saturday, 3rd March. The public ceremony will be part of the first visit of the Royal Australian Navy's newest ship to its adopted home port. Since arriving on Friday 2nd March the *Sirius* has been anchored off Kingston. It is due to leave Norfolk Island on Monday 5th March.

Mr Buffett invited all members of the Norfolk Island community to join in the festivities surrounding the ship's visit. Events commence at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday on the Post Office lawns in Taylor's Road. The Chief Minister will present a ceremonial scroll and key to the ship's Commanding Officer, Commander Tim Crawford RAN, who will give an address in response. At 10.50 a.m., the Commanding Officer and ship's company will march to a saluting point in Taylor's Road. After the taking of the salute, the march will continue to the RSL Clubrooms.

Details of the programme for Saturday 3rd March are:

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

Arrival of the ship's company
Arrival of the Deputy Commander Australian Fleet 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 these events were open to all of the community, and he hoped that people would take the opportunity to participate in the colourful ceremonies and to offer a warm Norfolk Island welcome to the ship's company.

Norfolk Island has been designated by the Royal Australian Navy as the home port for HMAS *Sirius*, the first RAN vessel to bear the name of the flagship of the First Fleet, HMS *Sirius*, which was wrecked off Norfolk Island in 1790.

“I trust that this will be the first of very many visits to Norfolk Island by the ship which now proudly bears a name so closely linked to our history”, Mr Buffett said.

David E Buffett
Chief Minister

2nd March 2007