

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 19 April 2017

HMAS Toowoomba to visit for Anzac Day

Bunbury's Anzac Day commemorations next Tuesday will be bolstered by a visit from the Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Toowoomba, which will be in the City for a two-night stay.

Crew will participate in the Dawn Service at the Bunbury War Memorial and also the morning service and march through the CBD. The City of Bunbury will also host a pre-Anzac Day Civic Reception on Monday night.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was exciting for a RAN ship to visit on such a significant day.

"I am sure the people of Bunbury will welcome the 198 crew with open arms and show them all that our City has to offer during their short stay," Mr Brennan said.

"Not only will they bring a significant social benefit through their involvement in Anzac Day commemorations, but they will have an economic impact also as they are sure to enjoy our cafes, restaurants and other hospitality houses."

The HMAS Toowoomba is an Anzac Class frigate with a contingent of 23 officers and 175 sailors under the command of Commander Stuart Watters. It is 118m long and was commissioned in 2005.

The ship will be berthed at the Outer Harbour but will not be open for public tours.

The last visit by a naval ship to Bunbury was the USS Ashland in June 2015 when 650 sailors and Marines enjoyed five days of rest and relaxation in the City.

Anzac Day commemorations in Bunbury will begin with the Dawn Service, which includes a 5.45am march from the RSL to the Anzac Park memorial on Stirling Street. Live screens and extra seating for the elderly will be provided.

The morning march begins at 10.45am and heads down Spencer Street via Stirling Street to Blair Street to the Graham Bricknell Sound Shell for an 11am service.

ENDS

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

T: 9792 7136 **T:** 0447 936 037 **E:** jtatham@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231

TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au