



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

MEDIA RELEASE - *For immediate release*

11 November 2015

### **Australian Sail Training Ship to call on Cape Town as part of world voyage**



The Australian Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* will call on Cape Town between 18 and 24 November, at the conclusion of the penultimate leg of its world voyage. The visit to South Africa is part of a 12-month circumnavigation of the world – the vessel’s first such deployment in over 20 years.

The voyage included the ship’s participation in Anzac Centenary Commemorations in Gallipoli, Turkey in April 2015 and representing Australia during the 2015 International Tall Ship Races in the North Sea. The vessel departed Rio de Janeiro en route to Cape Town on 24 October and will – after the welcome respite of a few days “rest” in the Mother City – set sail for Fremantle in West Australia on the final leg of its journey on 24 November.

#### ***Ship’s background***

The square-rigged tall ship - 44m in length with a 32m mainmast and ten sails - was the gift given by the United Kingdom to Australia, on the occasion of the Bicentenary in 1988 (commemorating 200 years since the arrival of the first fleet of British ships in Sydney). Although operated by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), *Young Endeavour* is primarily used to provide sail training to Australian youth through the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. The ship is manned by 12 RAN personnel and 24 youth sailors.

Since 1988 the Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Australian Government and the RAN, has provided challenging training voyages for more than 12,000 young people, and has hosted a further 10,000 guests from organisations supporting youth with special needs. For over 25 years, the Youth Scheme has been recognised internationally as a leading youth development program, with experience indicating that young people reap enormous benefit from the sail training program - and in turn, the Australian people also benefit as participants recognise their potential to make positive contributions in our communities.

## *Cape Town program*

In addition to the *Young Endeavour's* bilateral engagement with the South African Navy during its port visit, the ship's crew will participate in community outreach/development activities in Cape Town facilitated by the High Commission and will host an Open Day from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 21 November (at its berth at Jetty No. 2 at the V&A Waterfront), when members of the public are encouraged to take advantage of the rare opportunity to view this spectacular vessel in all its glory.

Further information on the crew's community development activities will be provided in a separate media release on 17 November. In the interim, media are requested to contact the Australian High Commission regarding the opportunity to view (by appointment) the ship and meet Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Gavin Dawe and his crew. For more information, specifically regarding the scheduling of media ship's visits, kindly contact Will Butler on [will.butler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:will.butler@dfat.gov.au) or 012 423 6188 or Alan Yuen on [alan.yuen@dfat.gov.au](mailto:alan.yuen@dfat.gov.au)

