

Minister for Fair Trading  
Minister for Citizenship  
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

**Virginia Judge MP**



30 August 2009

## **JOIN THE ARMADA – WELCOME THE *GLORIA* TO SYDNEY**

Sydney families will have a unique opportunity to visit one of the world's largest tall ships this week when the Colombian Navy ARC *Gloria* berths at Circular Quay today.

NSW Minister for Citizenship, Virginia Judge, will join Ambassador of Colombia, His Excellency Mr Diego Betancur, Consul of Colombia in Sydney, Ms Maria Isabel Campo and the Royal Australian Navy at an official reception ceremony for the *Gloria*.

"I am delighted to welcome Captain Luis Jorge Tovar Neira and his crew of 148 on the *Gloria*'s first visit to Sydney in 21 years," Ms Judge said.

Boating enthusiasts can join the 'armada' as the *Gloria* makes its way into Sydney Harbour accompanied by local tall ships *James Craig* and *Southern Swan* at 9.30am.

The Colombian Navy's flagship will berth at the Overseas Passenger Terminal at 10am and open to the public at midday.

Ms Judge said the *Gloria* showcases the history and culture of the Latin American country.

"Visitors will be treated to a tour of this magnificent four mast, 23-sail ship and see precious pre-Colombian gold and ceramic artefacts on board," Ms Judge said.

"Australia and Colombia enjoy a very good relationship, with approximately 2,500 Colombian-born Australians calling Sydney home.

"Education is the source of our fastest growing economic, cultural and social link, with more than 7,000 Colombian students enrolled in our educational institutions in 2008 and two-way merchandise trade totalling \$73 million."

*Gloria* is on a five-day goodwill visit to Sydney following a successful voyage of Asia, training third year naval academy officers in navigation, seamanship, leadership and team building.

The *Gloria* is open to the public as follows:

- Sunday 30 August: 12noon - 4pm
- Monday 31 August: 9am – 4pm
- Tuesday 1 September: 9am - 7pm
- Wednesday 2 September: 9am to 7pm
- Thursday 3 September: 9am – 1pm

She will depart Sydney on Thursday afternoon for Tahiti, before sailing back to her home port of Cartagena.

**Media contact: Kimberley Ramplin 0429 397 377**