



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**VISIT TO SIHANOUKVILLE CAMBODIA BY ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SHIP  
HMAS BATHURST**

The Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS BATHURST, will be visiting the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia from 3 October 2009 to 6 October 2009. This visit reinforces the close links between Cambodia and Australia through the Australian Defence Cooperation Program and follows successful visits by Royal Australian Navy vessels in previous years: HMAS Darwin due in September 2009, HMAS Bathurst Apr 2009, HMAS ADELAIDE in May 2007 and August 2005, HMAS TOOWOOMBA in April 2006, HMAS DARWIN in October 2004, HMAS DUBBO and HMAS GERALDTON in September 2004, and HMAS GASCOYNE and HMAS NORMAN in May 2003.

While in Sihanoukville, the Commanding Officer of HMAS BATHURST, Lieutenant Commander Steve Taragel, will be paying courtesy calls on the Governor of Sihanoukville, His Excellency Sbaong Sarath, and the Commander of Ream Naval Base His Excellency Rear Admiral Ouk Seiha.

HMAS Bathurst is an Armidale Class Patrol Boat and is a highly capable and versatile warship capable of conducting a wide variety of missions and tasks. One of her primary duties is the contribution to Australia's Civil Surveillance Program. HMAS Bathurst operations protect against unauthorised entry, breaches of customs, illegal immigration, people smuggling, and enforces drugs legislation, while also preserving the integrity of Australia's national fish stocks, marine environment and other natural resources.

Photographs and further information on HMAS Bathurst can be obtained from the World Wide Web at <http://www.navy.gov.au>.

There will be a media briefing and photograph opportunities in Sihanoukville on 3 October 2009. Media staff interested in attending these opportunities are requested to register interest with the point of contact below.

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