MEDIA RELEASE

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Media advisory: Anzac Centenary - Australia's first victory at sea

Few Australian battles are celebrated by both sides like the Battle of Cocos.

For Australians there was great national pride at the success of their new Navy. Germany paid tribute to the skill and courage of the Emden's Captain, Karl von Müller and his crew for their accomplishments in disrupting Allied shipping in the opening months of the War.

There was also praise for the 50 German sailors who, stranded on the Cocos by the battle, embarked on one of wartime’s most famous escapes, travelling 12000kms by sloop, ship, camel and train from the Cocos to Constantinople.

From 7-11 Nov 2014 Australia’s most remote and one of its smallest communities will hold commemorative events and dedicate new memorials to the battle.

The Sydney-Emden Project team can provide:

• Spokespersons on the battle and the Cocos 100 years on.
• Interviews with Australian, British and German descendants.
• Images of the battle, the (underwater) Emden wreck and Cocos today.
• Details of the new memorials honouring the men of both ships.

Please contact bobcraw@webone for more information.

About Sydney-Emden Project Team
Funding Sydney-Emden 100 has received funding through the Indian Ocean Territory Community Development Grants Program 2014 and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Support has also come from the Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Emden Families, Shire of Cocos, Cocos Keeling Islands Tourism Association and the Cocos Community. Memorials and exhibitions have been provided under the Anzac Centenary Grants Scheme to conceptualise and erect the Friendship Mast, which will be officially dedicated on 9 Nov 2014. The Museum of Western Australia has also provided support including developing a special exhibition for the Cocos called ‘The Day The Emden Came’. Services The Royal Australian Navy is supporting the Centennial by hosting a special commemorative service on the Islands.

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