



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Alert

HMAS WESTRALIA & HMAS ASSAULT COMMEMORATION DAY

**11am
9 March 2008
Neil Carroll Rotary Park
Corner Victoria Pde & Shoal Bay Rd, Nelson Bay**

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson will join the Port Stephens Historical Society and the HMAS *Assault* Association at the commemoration.

The commemoration marks the 65th Anniversary of the arrival of the Royal Australian Navy armed merchant cruiser HMAS *Westralia*, the establishment of the shore-based training base HMAS *Assault*, and the establishment of the American Army training camp at Nelson Bay in World War 2.

Ms Grierson, who is also a member of Parliament's Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade, said she was pleased to be representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs at the event.

"Port Stephens was home to extensive defence forces during the Second World War," Ms Grierson said.

"Today's ceremony acknowledges the contribution HMAS Assault, HMAS Westralia and the American Army training camp made to the defence of our nation."

"I'm pleased that the Australian Government was able to support today's commemoration through a \$2,750 *Saluting their Service* Grant."

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