



MEDIA RELEASE

PHILLY Retirement

A part of Norfolk Island folklore, one of the Lighterage Launches Philly, has finally retired from operations.

Philly is one of three Government launches which were built in the 20th century to ferry personnel and cargo from ship to shore.

As part of the Lighterage operations, she formed a part of what has become a famous attraction on Norfolk for tourists, locals and visitors alike.

Built in May 1958 by Philly McCoy, the launch was constructed with Norfolk Island pine.

Philly has been on constant duty and a faithful asset for Lighterage operations for 64 years and out of all our launches, Philly has had the most storied and distinguished career.

On 11 May 1958 Philly was put to sea before she was even completed. Two local fishermen went fishing in their dingy and didn't return. An alarm was raised, and a RAAF Neptune flew from Sydney, and joined a circling Bristol aircraft in a broadening search and rescue mission.

The Bristol aircraft identified a fix on the fisherman's boat with its radar and dropped a marker.

Philly was launched unfinished and headed out to sea where the two fishermen were found and rescued.

Famously, in February 1974 Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal family visited Norfolk Island aboard the royal yacht Britannica.

On the morning of the Royal family's visit, the cyclone-size seas around the island failed to stop the Queen from coming ashore at Kingston.

The royal party came ashore in Philly with Uckoo Douran and Short Graham at the helm (see picture below).

This was Philly's greatest hour.

Philly will be retired to KAHVA and will remain on display, as part of the Norfolk Island community.

Thankyou for your service Philly.



Norfolk Island Regional Council
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