

International Fleet Review - more ships announced and website relaunched

With ten weeks to go until the commencement of the Royal Australian Navy's International Fleet Review (IFR) Sydney 2013, two more ships have been announced and a redesigned IFR website has been launched.

The United States Navy guided-missile cruiser USS *Chosin* (CG 65) and the People's Liberation Army Navy's *Qingdao*, a Luh-class guided missile destroyer from China have confirmed their attendance taking the total number of visiting warships to 23. With the combined might of the Royal Australian Navy's ships and the tall ships there will be a fleet of 60 ships arriving in Sydney Harbour for the event.

During Open Days on 6 and 7 October 2013 members of the public will have the opportunity to visit both warships and tall ships at Garden Island, Barangaroo and Darling Harbour. Australian and foreign warships plus the tall ships will be open at these events for what is a rare opportunity.

Images of the all the participating ships can be seen on the newly relaunched IFR website – <http://navy.gov.au/ifr> – which provides more detail and information about this significant, commemorative event. The website is the primary source for finding out about the combined fleet, events and activities for the IFR. It is also where information can be found on how to purchase official IFR merchandise.

Some IFR events such as the warship open days, tall ship day sails and harbour vantage points during the IFR Fireworks and Lightshow Spectacular will be ticketed to assist with crowd management. Details and the booking process for these events will also be available on the IFR website, once confirmed.

There is a latest news section in the new site providing news updates and goings on in the lead up to the event. Quick links to useful external sites are included, along with those to the IFR Twitter and Facebook page. An IFR app for Apple and Android phones is being developed and will be available to download free from the Apple Store and Google Play from mid-September.

The IFR will place on Sydney Harbour from 3 -11 October 2013, to commemorate the centenary of the first Royal Australian Navy fleet entry into Sydney Harbour on 4 October 1913.