John Hardy named as new Administrator

30 October 2014

John Hardy AOM has been appointed as the Northern Territory’s 21st Administrator by the Governor General, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).

“Mr Hardy is a proud Territorian with a track record of working hard in business and in the community. He is an outstanding choice for this role,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“I look forward to him taking up the position and representing the people of the Northern Territory over the next two years

“Mr Hardy has a quintessential Territory story. He came to the Territory in 1971 to broaden his experience as a pilot. Like many of us, he never expected to stay more than a couple of years but 43 years later, he’s still here and has now been named as Administrator.

“John Hardy made his name in the Territory as a respected businessman establishing Air North in 1978 and Hardy Aviation in 1991. Hardy Aviation is now one of the Territory’s biggest airlines.

“Mr Hardy has won the hearts of many Territorians as a strong supporter of community organisations, including the Government House Foundation, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra and Tiwi Islands football. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Darwin.

“He has served as Commodore of the Darwin Sailing Club and is well-known for playing a leading role in establishing the annual Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race which celebrates ties between the Territory and Indonesia.”

Mr Hardy hopes he will be able to continue his community work as part of his new role.

“I came to the Territory as a young pilot and fell in love with this place and its people. My wife Marie and I have brought up our family here. It is a great honour to be chosen for this important position representing Territorians,” Mr Hardy said.

“Over the years, I have flown many Administrators around the Territory but I never imagined I would ever be named among them. It is extremely humbling.

“I was here when Cyclone Tracy hit in 1974 and I am honoured that some of my first official duties will include the commemorations for the 40th anniversary of that event later this year. It will be an
opportunity to reflect on how far the Territory has come in the past four decades and our resilience as a community."

Mr Hardy replaces the Honourable Sally Thomas AM, who wraps up her appointment later today.

"I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Her Honour for her committed service in this role since 2011," Mr Giles said

"Sally Thomas has been a trail blazer both in her legal career, where she was the first female Magistrate, Chief Magistrate and Supreme Court Justice, and through her service as the Territory’s first female Administrator."

During her term, the outgoing Administrator has attended 859 events throughout the Northern Territory, delivered 299 official speeches and welcomed more than 22,000 guests to Government House.

Two weeks after being sworn in, the first international guest Her Honour welcomed to the Territory was the President of the United States, the Honourable Barack Obama.

“It’s an impressive record and I know I speak on behalf of all Territorians when I say it has been a great honour to have you serve as our representative these past three years,” Mr Giles said.

Mr Hardy will be officially sworn in by the Governor General at Government House on 10 November.

Until that time, Chief Justice Trevor Riley is able to carry-out any statutory duties that might be required.

Please see Federal Government release attached.

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