

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battle of Guadalcanal

## Program

Dear friends,

The Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers' Trust Board is delighted to share with you a schedule of public events planned for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commemorations of the landing of US Marines on Guadalcanal during World War II.

The activities are as follows:

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### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

08:45-14:30hrs      Conference: *'Among Those Present': Exploring New Perspectives of the World War Two Experience in Solomon Islands.*  
Kukum Lecture Theatre, Solomon Islands National University.  
**(Open to the public. Free of charge.)**

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

09:00-11:00      Service of Remembrance, Holy Cross Cathedral.  
**(Open to the public.)**

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

07:00-08:45      US Memorial Service, Skyline Ridge, Honiara.  
**(Invitation only.)**

09:15-10:00      Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers' Trust Memorial Service, Monument, Coronation Street, Honiara  
**(Open to the public.)**

10:30-11:00      US Coast Guard Memorial Service, Point Cruz Yacht Club.  
**(Invitation only.)**

11:15-11:45      Launch of the new Coastwatchers' Museum project, National Museum, Honiara.  
**(Open to the public.)**

18:00      Islands entertainment evening for visiting service personnel and the public, Point Cruz Yacht Club. Tickets on sale at the Yacht Club  
**(Island Feast and entertainment \$SBD \$250 pp.)**

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

08:15-10:00      Solomon Islands Government event:

Official declaration of Bloody Ridge as a National Park.  
(Invitation only.)

- 10:00 Sporting events (visiting military personnel and Solomon Islands teams),  
Town Ground Rugby Stadium.  
(Open to the public.)
- 11:00-11:15 Unveiling of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque, Memorial Gardens, Henderson  
International Airport.  
(Invitation only.)
- 17:00-18:00 Concert by US military and Solomon Islands Police brass bands, Art Gallery,  
Honiara.  
(Open to the public.)

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

- 07:00-11:00 Ceremony to commemorate the loss of the Royal Australian Navy cruiser  
HMAS *Canberra* in the Battle of Savo Island. (RAN vessel departs Main  
Wharf, Point Cruz at 07:00).  
(Invitation only.)

Official 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events end.

Please note: these arrangements are subject to change. Details are correct as of 31st July, 2017.

The military history conference at the Solomon Islands National University on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August** is the first such event of its kind. It will provide an opportunity to hear from both Solomon Islanders and international delegates with an interest in wartime events. Many family members of those who served as Coastwatchers and Scouts will be speaking, thus providing a unique chance to hear their experiences. The conference is open to the public and is free of charge.

Naval vessels from New Zealand, the USA and Australia will dock at Point Cruz wharf during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary period. They are:

**HMNZS *Otago*** 3rd to 9th August.  
**USS *Barry*** 4th to 9th August.  
**HMAS *Success*** 6th to 9th August.

Military personnel from the warships, along with members of the general public, are invited to an island feast, including custom dancing and a local band, to be held at the Point Cruz Yacht Club from 6pm on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August**. The entrance fee is SBD \$250 per person. 300 tickets are available.

The highlight of activities on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August** will be the declaration by the Solomon Islands Government of the Bloody Ridge area on Guadalcanal as a National Park. The site is to be declared in the name of *Peace, Freedom and Friendship* and will, in future years, become the focal point for remembrance ceremonies of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

On **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August**, the international naval vessels will depart Point Cruz for a memorial service on Iron Bottom Sound. This will remember all the ships lost during the Battle of Savo Island, especially the HMAS *Canberra*, which was sunk 75 years ago.

Special commemorative memorabilia, such as T-shirts and similar items, are available at outlets of DJ Graphics in Ranadi, city centre and hotel gift shops. A video and book (signed by the author, historian John Innes) are also available.

For further information about 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, please contact Joy on 23508 or by e-mail [info@prideofournation.org.sb](mailto:info@prideofournation.org.sb)