



Heather Butler, MHA
Member for Lyons

Friday, 7 April 2006

France To Freycinet Festival Launch

Note: The event is to be launched at 6pm tonight

The From France to Freycinet Festival is to be officially launched at a reception at Triabunna tonight.

Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, will officially launch the festival, which is part of celebrations taking place around the nation to

commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first mapping of Australia by Dutch Captain Willem Jansoon in 1606.

Sir Guy Green, the Tasmanian Patron of Australia on the Map, Lady Green, and Dutch Consul Mr George Huizing, are also to attend the reception.

Mrs Butler says this year's Festival will also celebrate the significance of Dutch exploration of Tasmania's East Coast, which started with Abel Tasman naming Van Diemens Land, and Maria and Schouten Islands.

"The historic links between Tasmania and the Netherlands are very important," Mrs Butler said.

"The Dutch community is one of the biggest groups of migrants in Tasmania, with about 5% of Tasmanians having Dutch heritage.

"Over the years, the Dutch community has contributed greatly to Tasmania's development – including Roelf Vos, who started a chain of supermarkets, and the Sypkes family who founded the Purity Chain in Tasmania, and later Chickenfeed," Mrs Butler said.

Mrs Butler thanked the Dutch community for its contribution to Tasmania's multicultural heritage.

"The festival promises to be a great weekend of cultural events, including a Dutch village erected at Triabunna marina, kite displays, jazz, drama, gourmet food and wine, and a visit from tall ship The Windeward Bound, which will anchor just off Maria Island.

"The State Government is always pleased to support festivals of this nature, and this year, provided \$3,500 through Events Tasmania."