



# C-17s score more firsts

A \$2.1 MILLION investment by the administration of Norfolk Island recently resulted in another series of 'firsts' for 36SQN and its C-17s.

Concerned about safety at the island's airport, the administration decided to purchase two Panther fire trucks, similar to those recently acquired by Air Force.

Having acquired the tenders, the question of getting them to the remote NSW territory arose when delivering them by ship became impossible.

Enter 36SQN. Inquiries revealed that the C-17 was only one of the few aircraft in the world that could load the Panther and deliver it safely on to Norfolk's main runway.

It was also the largest aircraft ever to visit the island.

Consequently, a Defence Assistance to the Civil Community task was raised and on November 18, a Globemaster made the first flight to the island where it successfully delivered the big fire truck. It subsequently returned with the second truck.

Then, before it departed, it embarked a young boy who had



**ISLAND NATIVE:** FLTLT Jodie McCoy enjoys her visit home.

**AGROUND:** Below, the Norfolk Island Panther about to be loaded on to the C-17 at Amberley.

broken his arm on monkey bars at school and returned him to the mainland for treatment. This was the type's first civilian aero-medical evacuation.

The arrival of the Globemaster proved a momentous occasion for

the islanders, according to tourism general manager Terry Watson.

Businesses closed down and local schools came to look at the aircraft, while the next day one of the Panthers was paraded before them.

Terry Watson said that the two fire trucks could each carry 12,500 litres of water, 1500 litres of foam and 250kg of dry powder, and should be able to take on just about anything any fire hazard threw at them.

"The tenders not only give us a very high safety and rescue rating but also allow us to lay on some pretty impressive water cannon welcomes for visiting VIPs and travel groups," Mr Watson said.

The flights also provided an ideal opportunity for medical officer FLTLT Jodie McCoy from No. 1 Air Transportable Hospital, who is a Norfolk Island 'native', to visit her family and friends.

FLTLT McCoy said she missed the island and returned whenever she could.

"It's always good to see my family and friends again, however I thoroughly enjoy being a medical officer in the Air Force," she said.

