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**Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
21 June 2007**

MIDWINTER'S DAY 2007 HONOURS LIST

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following award:

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

Miss Sharon Rae LABUDDA

Kumbia Qld 4610

For outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expeditions.

By His Excellency's Command

Brien Hallett

Acting Official Secretary to
the Governor-General

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

(21 June 2007)

Miss Sharon Rae Labudda

Kumbia Qld 4610

For outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expeditions

Occupation In Antarctica:

Senior Aircraft Ground Support Officer, Davis Station

Service in Antarctica:

Summer 2006/07

Summer-Winter-Summer 2004/06

Summer-Winter-Summer 2002/04.

Aircraft Ground Support Officer (AGSO) positions were created coincident with the introduction of station based, fixed wing aircraft in the 2003/04 season. The AGSO works closely with aircraft and helicopter flight crews and engineers to assist in the day to day operations, principally ensuring fuel is available, cargo and passengers are organised and ready to go, and documentation such as weights, dangerous goods and passenger and cargo manifests comply with the regulations.

Miss Labudda was the first AGSO employed and has been instrumental in the establishment of this position to air operations in Antarctica. She has developed and implemented procedures and processes that have greatly enhanced the efficiency and safety of aviation operations in the Australian Antarctic programme. She has established many work standards and practices that are used in the air transport system in Antarctica. She has always looked for and found more efficient and better ways to achieve programme goals. For instance, she recommended the use of a Kasseboehrer snow groomer for constructing and maintaining snow runways. This allowed virtually all of the planned November-December 2006 fixed wing flight programme to be completed despite starting almost a month late. Miss Labudda demonstrates the professional capability and personal qualities found in an outstanding Antarctic expeditioner.

She has consistently displayed qualities that contribute to station life in a positive way and has done this with commitment, dedication and an unfailing willingness to work long hours and always with a positive outlook. She has also shown a willingness and skill in imparting her significant knowledge to less experienced expeditioners and has shown empathy and sensitivity in supporting colleagues through difficult periods.

Miss Labudda's consistent effort in everything she does has made a significant contribution towards ensuring the success of the intra-continental aviation programme. Miss Labudda, through her admirable work ethic and overriding desire to do whatever was necessary to ensure success, has consistently gone far beyond what might normally be expected.

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