



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

24 APRIL 1987

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5.30 PM SUNDAY

An outstanding international line-up of tall ships will visit Australia for the Bicentennial celebrations and take part in the first tall ships race in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tall ships from Europe, Asia, and North and South America will cross the oceans to participate in Australian port festivities in this major Bicentenary event.

I am delighted that so many nations have accepted the Australian Government's invitation to take part in Tall Ships Australia 1988.

The magnificent international fleet will grace our shores from early December.

The tall ships race, involving overseas and local vessels, will start in Hobart on January 14, ending in Sydney.

The event will culminate in a spectacular parade of sail on Australia Day, 26 January 1988 out of Sydney Harbour. I am confident this international event will not only capture the imagination of all Australians but also remind us of our maritime heritage. It promises to be one of the most spectacular events of the Bicentenary.

Visiting government ships will start arriving early in December and will continue to arrive throughout December and early January 1988 before assembling in Hobart to race to Sydney.

The ships will be open to the public for inspection and a hospitality program involving visiting crews and Australians is being organised.

The ships will visit most capital ports.

A significant number of non-government vessels have also registered interest in Tall Ships Australia 1988. Three small non-government vessels are already on their way to Australia from the United States, Holland and Poland.

ATTACHMENT

Tall Ships Australia 1988 is being organised by the Australian Bicentennial Authority under the Director Tall Ships, Rear Admiral Rothesay Swan.

Overseas government vessels which have already accepted:

Principality of Andorra	Principat d'Andorra Trotamar III, a 13-metre-ketch (42.7ft), already on its way;
Ecuador	Guayas, an 78.4-metre-barque (257.2ft);
Federal Republic of Germany	Gorch Fock, a 90-metre-barque (295.3ft);
India	Varuna, a 29-metre-brig (95ft);
Ireland	Asgard II, a 31.7-metre brigantine (104ft);
Japan	Nippon Maru, a 110-metre-barque (361.2ft);
The Netherlands	Abel Tasman, a 23-metre-Bermudan-schooner (75.4ft);
Oman	Shabab Oman, a 44-metre topgallant schooner (144.5ft);
Poland	Dar Moldziezy, a 108.6-metre-barque (356.3ft);
Spain	Juan Sebastian de Elcano, a 113-metre barquentine (371ft);
United Kingdom	Young Endeavour, a 44-metre-brigantine (144ft);
United States of America	Eagle, a 90-metre-barque (295ft).

Tall Ships Australia 1988 Australian Port Visits:

Perth (Fremantle)	8 December 1987 to 12 December 1987
Adelaide	22 December 1987 to 26 December 1987
Brisbane	30 December 1987 to 2 January 1988
Melbourne	31 December 1987 to 5 January 1988
Hobart	10 January 1988 to 14 January 1988
Sydney	19 January 1988 to 26 January 1988

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