



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 JUNE 1987

The Prime Minister today announced the establishment of the Antarctic Medal in the Australian system of honours and awards. This new medal will be awarded for outstanding service by people connected with Australian Antarctic expeditions.

Mr Hawke said The Queen had been pleased to approve Letters Patent and Regulations establishing the Antarctic Medal.

He said the awards would be announced each year on Mid-Winter's Day - which had a special significance to Antarctic expeditioners. The first of these awards would be announced next week.

The Prime Minister said the awards would be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for the Antarctic Territory.

The new award would be placed immediately below the Bravery Medal in the Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards.

The insignia of the award was designed by Mr Stuart Devlin, CMG.