

AUSTRALIA DAY

Message By The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies.

Australia Day is for both memory and decision. What great events have moved across the face of Australia since January 26, 1788!

We can look back with pride on what has been achieved in almost every field of life. In this sense we are the inheritors of the work of the past. But this does not mean that we can be content merely to live on our inheritance. We must add to it, so that future generations will look back on what we have done with a pride similar to that with which we regard the work of our predecessors. In this sense, Australia Day is an occasion for renewing our determination to build soundly on the existing foundations, to develop new resources, to build up a wider and fuller civilisation. In short, we must see ourselves as the present pioneers of an even better Australian future. Particularly in times of great prosperity, we may be tempted to regard ourselves as beneficiaries and to forget that we must be contributors as well. I have no doubt whatever that the national character will continue to rise to the challenge of the future, not ignoring difficulties or pretending they don't exist, but with complete confidence in our capacity to overcome them and to play our part in what should be a notable national growth in the years to come.

CANBERRA.

25th January, 1963.