



PRIME MINISTER

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AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL 1976

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today announced plans for a nationwide Australian American Festival in 1976. Mr. Whitlam said he had accepted an invitation to be the joint patron of the festival with the United States Ambassador to Australia, Mr. Marshall Green.

The festival would co-incide with celebrations in the United States to mark the bicentenary of American independence.

The Sydney program would be held from 27 March to 24 April 1976. No dates had yet been set for the program being prepared for Melbourne and other capital cities.

Mr. Whitlam said the Australian American Association had conceived the idea of a national Australian American Festival and had received prompt co-operation from many quarters including cultural groups, sporting bodies, retail and business houses, art galleries, organisations and trusts and many prominent citizens.

"The festival will heavily underline the ever-strengthening bonds that exist between the two nations", Mr. Whitlam said.

"It will comprise three segments - Heritage, Festival and Horizons. The Heritage section will concentrate on the historical association of Australia and America."

"Displays, art and other exhibitions, special theatrical and orchestral performances, travel promotions, a street parade and sporting events will be included in the Festival segment".

Mr. Whitlam said the Horizons segment would draw attention to present-day relationships between the two countries and give an insight into future relationships.

"I commend the Australian American Association for the part it has played over the years in strengthening the ties between our countries and initiating the 1976 festival with which I am honored to be associated," Mr. Whitlam said.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.