



PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
FOR
WESTPAC PRESENTATION TO
SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION
BONDI
30 OCTOBER 1985

ALAN WHELPTON (PRESIDENT, SLSA), GUS STAUNTON (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SLSA), IAN MATHESON (DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, WESTPAC), JOHN CHATTERTON (GENERAL MANAGER, NSW WESTPAC), JEANNETTE MCHUGH (MEMBER FOR PHILLIP), JOHN BROWN (MINISTER FOR SPORT) AND ALAN SLADE (DEPUTY MAYOR, WAVERLEY COUNCIL) -

FIRST OF ALL, THANKS VERY MUCH IAN, FOR THIS CHEQUE WHICH I ACCEPT MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON BEHALF OF THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION. IT MAKES IT DOUBLY SATISFYING TO BE HERE AT BONDI TODAY.

IT'S A LONG WAY FROM THE BAHAMAS TO THE SURF AND SAND OF BONDI. AND DESPITE ALL THE ATTRACTIONS WHICH A PLACE LIKE THE BAHAMAS IS SUPPOSED TO HOLD - I MIGHT SAY I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF THE PLAYGROUND WHILE I WAS THERE - I CAN TELL YOU IT IS NO LETDOWN TO COME BACK TO AUSTRALIA, ESPECIALLY TO SYDNEY AND PARTICULARLY TO THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH.

IT'S NO SECRET BY NOW THAT I DO LIKE THE OCCASIONAL BIT OF SPORT. I'M ALSO PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THOSE PECULIARLY AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE ALLIED WITH SPORT.

- THE GREAT PUBLIC SERVICE PERFORMED BY THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT IS ONE OF THE MOST WORTHY AND VALUABLE OF THESE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU COULD FIND.

FOR ALL THESE REASONS, IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE AT BONDI, TO PLAY A ROLE IN ONE OF THE OTHER GREAT FEATURES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE.

- AND THAT IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SPORTING AND PUBLIC SERVICE BODIES AND THEIR PRIVATE SPONSORS.

THIS PRESENTATION OF A CHEQUE FROM THE WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION FOR \$3.61 MILLION IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP WE ALL NEED IN AUSTRALIA BETWEEN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, AMATEUR SPORTING BODIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE RESULT OF THIS PARTNERSHIP IS A GREAT DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA'S SPORTING LIFE AND IN OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER, AND A TREMENDOUS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE SORT OF PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT PROVIDES.

- THE PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTPAC DOES MUCH TO MAKE THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION THE VIABLE, EFFECTIVE AND OUTSTANDING MOVEMENT THAT IT IS TODAY.

WE MIGHT BE A LARGE NATION IN TERMS OF AREA, BUT WE ARE A SMALL NATION IN TERMS OF POPULATION AND IN TERMS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

AS A GOVERNMENT, WE DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION AND ITS RESCUE SERVICES.

- BUT WE CANNOT PROVIDE THE SORT OF ASSISTANCE YOU NEED WITHOUT THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
- ESPECIALLY OF GROUPS SUCH AS WESTPAC WHICH HAVE A LONG AND CREDITABLE RECORD OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION AND TO THE HELICOPTER RESCUE SERVICE.

ALAN WHELPTON TELLS ME THAT TODAY'S PRESENTATION REPRESENTS AUSTRALIA'S SINGLE LARGEST LIFE SAVING SPONSORSHIP. I BELIEVE THAT IT ALSO REPRESENTS THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF LIFE SAVING IN THE WORLD.

IT IS ESPECIALLY FITTING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE THIS PRESENTATION HERE TODAY ALONG WITH THAT GREAT IRON MAN RACE WHICH WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED.

IT SYMBOLISES THE TWO ARMS OF THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT.

- THE TREMENDOUS SERVICE DONE IN PATROLLING OUR BEACHES AND THE OUTSTANDING SPORTING AND PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT'S ATHLETES.

WITH SUCH A STAR-STUDED LINE-UP OF COMPETITORS INCLUDING:

- CRAIG RIDDINGTON, ROBERT CHAPMAN, GRANT KENNY, GUY LEECH AND MICK PORRA
- AND TWO UP AND COMING JUNIORS, SEAN KENNY AND DARREN MERCER, COMPETED AGAINST THEM.
- MOST OF THEM STARS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.
- IT IS A PITY THAT THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE WINNER OF THIS WESTPAC TROPHY.

BUT THESE FELLOWS HERE, AND THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO OPERATE THE RESCUE SERVICE AROUND AUSTRALIA, REPRESENT SO MUCH OF WHAT MAKES AUSTRALIA AND THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT THE SPECIAL PLACE AND MOVEMENT THAT THEY ARE.

WE HAVE SEEN THE BEST THAT THE IRON MEN CAN DO. AND I BELIEVE WE WILL ALSO BE SEEING THE BEST THE RESCUE SIDE HAS TO OFFER WITH THE WESTPAC HELICOPTER AND THE JET BOAT.

WE MUSTN'T FORGET THAT THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT AND THE RESCUE SERVICE IT PROVIDES ARE NOT LIMITED TO LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE WHO GO SWIMMING AT THE BEACH.

- OFTEN CALLED UPON TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE ON THE WATER, OFF-SHORE IN BOATS, OR FISHING FROM ROCKS.
- EVEN PEOPLE IN TROUBLE ON LAND.

THIS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION AND WESTPAC IS ALSO RELEVANT TO THE EFFORTS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING IN GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THROUGH JOHN BROWN, MY COLLEAGUE AND OUR MINISTER FOR SPORT.

- TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND AUSTRALIAN SPORTING BODIES.
- WE ARE SETTING UP THE SPORTS AID FOUNDATION TO HELP CHANNEL PRIVATE SECTOR TAX DEDUCTIBLE FUNDING THROUGH TO SPORTING BODIES.
- A POLICY WHICH RECOGNISES THAT WE CAN NOT, WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, EVER HOPE TO PROVIDE BY OURSELVES THE SORT OF ASSISTANCE WHICH THESE ORGANISATIONS NEED.

WE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY CANBERRA TO THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION.

- THIS YEAR, \$850,000 FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES AS GEAR AND EQUIPMENT SUBSIDIES, RUNNING COSTS FOR THE JET BOAT AND RUBBER DUCKIES, PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND SOME OF THE SLSA'S ADMINISTRATION COSTS.
- SO FAR WE HAVE ALREADY HANDED OVER \$200,000.
- THE REMAINING \$650,000 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

BUT I AM ASSURED BY GUS STAUNTON THAT ALL THIS CERTAINLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SLSA NO LONGER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. THEY MOST CERTAINLY DO.

IT IS GREAT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SURF LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT, BOTH AS PRIME MINISTER AND AS VICE PATRON OF THE ORGANISATION.

IT IS TREMENDOUS THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS SUCH AS WESTPAC CAN BE IN PARTNERSHIP TO SPONSOR THIS GREAT AUSTRALIAN TRADITION.

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ANY ASSISTANCE IS GOOD IF IT HELPS YOUR CLUBS, THE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA, TO REPORT PROUDLY EACH YEAR THAT WHILE PATROLS ARE ON DUTY THERE WERE "NO LIVES LOST".

AND IT IS ESPECIALLY WORTHWHILE IF IT HELPS TO MAKE THE REST OF OUR COASTLINE SAFER, AS WELL.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH WESTPAC FOR YOUR DONATION.