



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

8 JANUARY 1986

On 10 July, 1986, the Royal Australian Navy celebrates 75 years of service to Australia. On behalf of the Government of Australia I congratulate past and present Naval personnel on this outstanding record.

The RAN is an integral element of the Australian Defence Force. As such it trains for war to preserve peace but, if necessary, to help defend Australia's freedom and prosperity. The need for such defence, and the importance of the RAN's contribution to that defence, are amply demonstrated by the RAN's participation in two World Wars and other conflicts since it was founded in 1911. The peace and prosperity Australians currently enjoy are due in no small measure to the efforts and sacrifices of men and women who have served or are serving in the RAN.

There will be several national highlights to mark the 75th Anniversary of the RAN. These include the Navy's 'Salute to Australia' in Sydney on Friday, 24 January. This will involve a massed Fleet entry into Sydney Harbour, a fly-past by the Fleet Air Arm, and a subsequent march by naval personnel through the streets of Sydney.

On Monday, 3 March, Her Majesty the Queen will officially unveil a National Naval Memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra, at a ceremonial parade involving 1200 serving personnel and 2000 ex-naval men and women representing ship associations from all parts of Australia.

Friendly and allied navies closely associated with the RAN have been invited to participate in a Naval Review to be staged on Sydney Harbour on Saturday, 4 October. The reviewing officer will be His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, who is Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Australian Navy. The Review will be followed two days later by a major air show at the Naval Air Station Nowra, in which aircraft from visiting fleet units are expected to participate.

I wish the Royal Australian Navy every success in celebrating its 75th Anniversary during 1986.