



PRIME MINISTER

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TIME AUSTRALIA - SPECIAL BICENTENARY ISSUE
MELBOURNE - 11 NOVEMBER, 1987

This special issue of Time is among the first of the vast number of publications associated with Australia's Bicentenary.

So once again Time has scooped its competitors.

But it is a very important, and very appropriate, initiative by Time Australia.

Important, because it brings the approach of the Bicentenary into sharp focus, before an international readership.

And appropriate, because of what Time Australia itself represents.

In Time Australia, we have an example of an outstandingly successful news venture, based on the world's greatest magazine, but already becoming identifiably Australian in character.

This is already Time with an Australian accent.

But, of course, the American connection remains strong.

And in this - as on the wider level of our relations - long may it continue to be so.

Indeed, we may see in this connection something symbolic of one of the central facts about the Bicentenary itself.

We all know the direct link of history between the American War of Independence and the foundation of Australia - the loss of the American colonies as a receptacle for transportation.

But there is an even more fundamental connection between the America of 1788 and the Australia of 1988.

The theme of this Bicentenary issue of Time is "The World of 1788".

And in that world of 1788, two events of immense importance were about to take place - the two events which have most shaped the modern Western world.

In the United States, the Founding Fathers had completed the Constitution, and George Washington was about to become the first President of the world's first modern democracy.

And within a year, the watershed event of modern Europe would occur - the French Revolution.

This is the constellation under which this colony here was born.

It's true that no nation could have had more unpromising beginnings.

But our beginning was also a time of a new beginning for the Western world - the inauguration of the great experiment in democracy.

And this, of course, shaped the next two hundred years, decisively - for Australia, and for the Western world.

It is the democratic experience, which began in the United States in 1788, which links us directly, in 1988, with the world of 1788, described in this special issue of Time.

The approaching Bicentenary is, among other things, a time for reflection.

In particular, it is an occasion to reflect on the impact of the last 200 years on the original inhabitants of the land.

This special issue contains a great deal of material to prompt serious thought about both our past and even more important, our future.

Just a word about the cover painting. Brett Whiteley has already made a considerable contribution to artistic endeavour in Australia.

- . The winner of three of Australia's most prestigious prizes for art: the Archibald Prize and the Sulman Prize in 1976 and 1978 and the Wynne Prize in 1977 and 1978;
- . His work is highly visible in the Australian community and is especially noted for its critical examination of Australia's place in the modern world.

It strikes me as a very appropriate honour that Time Australia has accorded Brett in commissioning him to undertake this work for this special issue.
Congratulations Brett.

I'm still trying to find the time to read the whole of this issue of Time but, and some of you will not be surprised, I have read with some amusement the article about a cricket match which might have taken place in 1787.

The article says:

"The rules committee, including the Earl of Tankerville and the Duke of Dorset, is expected to confirm the leg-before-wicket rule and the use of three stumps - a sensible measure adopted after Lumpy Stevens, England's greatest bowler, failed to dislodge a stubborn tail-ender, despite three deliveries that passed between the wickets. There will also be a fixed limit on the size of bats, to counter such imaginative tactics as those used by the Ryegate player White, who attempted to use a willow as wide as the stumps."

Jeff Penberthy, I congratulate you and the management of Time Australia for this excellent production, and thank you for the creativity and foresight in making it such a fitting curtain-raiser for the Bicentennial celebrations.
