



PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE YOUNG ENDEAVOUR
SYDNEY - MONDAY 25 JANUARY, 1988**

I thank you, Sir John Leahy, for your generous remarks.

And I am delighted to respond to your invitation to accept, on behalf of the government and people of Australia, this magnificent Bicentennial gift from the government and people of the United Kingdom.

This ship - the Young Endeavour - bears a name imperishably linked with Captain Cook's great voyage of discovery.

And the name itself expresses a great deal of our aspirations for our country.

This magnificent gift is a fitting tribute to the maritime history of our two countries.

It is a timely reminder of the sea links that were for so many years the only lines of communication between Australia and the rest of the world.

The Young Endeavour will enable the Australian government to provide the youth of Australia with an opportunity to experience an adventure under sail.

We have created the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme to administer and manage an exciting program.

The Youth Scheme will allocate berths to the States and Territories who will select the young people to fill the berths.

There will be an equal number of places for young men and women.

Steps will be taken to ensure disadvantaged youth are well represented and there will be special arrangements for disabled youth.

004089

The Royal Australian Navy will operate the ship and in a normal year of operations it is intended to carry out 23 ten-day voyages with an embarked youth crew of 24.

It is with pleasure that I announce today that the first chairman of the Board of Management will be Mr Malcolm Kinnaird of South Australia.

Mr Kinnaird brings to the position a wealth of experience both in the business community and in the world of sailing.

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme will be an ongoing legacy of our Bicentennial Year.

The government and people of Australia express gratitude to the government and people of Britain for their generosity.

We pay tribute to the devotion and skills of the shipyard workers who built and fitted out the Young Endeavour.

And I also extend our thanks and congratulations to the joint British and Australian crew which sailed the ship safely to our shores.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to reiterate, in person, the thanks I have already expressed to Sir Peter Gadsden, for the efforts of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee.

And to thank personally today Mr Arthur Weller and members of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Schooner Trust.

This gift is only part of Britain's enthusiastic participation in the Bicentenary - a fitting tribute to a deep, unbroken relationship of 200 years.

S.T.S. Young Endeavour now enters service in Australia, a reminder of our maritime background but more importantly a testament to the enduring friendship between our two countries.

* * * * *



PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

AUSTRALIA DAY
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
26 JANUARY 1988

Your Excellencies
Your Royal Highnesses
Premiers of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

We begin these celebrations in no spirit of boastfulness or national self-glorification.

This is a day of commemoration.

Even more important, it is a day of commitment.

Commemoration of the past - commitment to the future.

But, my fellow Australians, today I use the word "commitment" in a special sense.

For, our commitment to Australia is, in a very real way, the quality which best defines what it means to be an Australian in 1988.

For, let us ask ourselves, on this day of all days:

What is it that links us, in our generation, with the generations which have gone before?

It is not only the fact that, for the past 200 years, and to this day, we have been a nation of immigrants.

It is not only the fact that we share together this vast continent as our homeland.

It is not only the shared inheritance of all that has been built here, and achieved here, over the past 200 years.

And it is not only the common bond of institutions, standards, language and culture.

004091

Indeed, in today's Australia, our very diversity is an ever growing source of the richness, vitality and strength of our community.

It is true that all these things I have mentioned go to shape the Australian character and define the Australian identity.

Yet beyond them, there remains one vital factor in the answer to the question: Who is an Australian?

And that factor is: A commitment to Australia and its future.

It is that common commitment which binds the Australian-born of the seventh or eighth generation and all those of their fellow-Australians born in any of the 130 countries from which our people are drawn.

In Australia, there is no hierarchy of descent; there must be no privilege of origin.

The commitment is all.

The commitment to Australia is the one thing needful to be a true Australian.

Today, at this historic place and at this historic hour, let us renew that commitment, our commitment to Australia and Australia's cause - the cause of freedom, fairness, justice and peace.
