



PRIME MINISTER

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**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
OPENING OF NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE'S
'TAKE 88' EXHIBITION
CHATSWOOD - 1 AUGUST 1988**

We are launching today a unique new venture in Australia's cultural life - the first travelling exhibition mounted by the Australian National Film and Sound Archive.

In a very real sense movies and television programmes and radio broadcasts are the essence of our popular culture.

Living in 1988 we are accustomed to being entertained and informed by the avalanche of images pouring from our TVs and cinemas and the cascade of sound emerging from our radios and record players.

But it is easy to forget just how fragile are the image and sound recordings that provide the basis of this culture.

Nitrate films, wax phonograph cylinders, radio discs are all subject to decomposition and disintegration unless they are cared for; video tape of news broadcasts and sporting events are liable to be erased and reused unless they are copied and stored.

That is why the Government established the National Film and Sound Archive - to provide in a proper way for the preservation of these fragile expressions of our national heritage and creativity - and not just the preservation but the display of them. That is what this exhibition, 'Take 88' seeks to do.

This exhibition will allow large numbers of Australians over the coming months not only to relive some of the great moments of Australian screen and sound but also to appreciate the importance of the task of preserving them for future generations.

Take 88 includes a tremendous range of footage and broadcast material, old and new - from Australia's oldest surviving film, showing the Melbourne Cup of 1896, and the synthetic cricket tests broadcast on radio in the 1930s, to the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and our Bicentennial Australia Day celebrations this year.

You will see the ads for Aeroplane Jelly and early model Holdens, news broadcasts and movie newsreels, quiz shows, comedians ranging from Roy Rene 'Mo' to Norman Gunston, musicians from Dame Nellie Melba to Slim Dusty, and products of one of the oldest and one of the best film industries in the world - our own film industry, which has been producing box office successes to critical acclaim for more than 80 years.

And it's important to recognise that all the videos shown in this exhibition have been dubbed and edited by technicians in the Archive's own laboratory.

There are many people to thank for the hard work involved in mounting this exhibition. I congratulate both the Wesgo Group for its financial support, and Westfield for providing venues in four states and travel costs. And I applaud the initiative of the National Film and Sound Archive in deciding to show the Australian people in this most direct of ways just how rich is its collection.

I invite you all to enjoy the show and I have much pleasure in declaring open 'Take 88'.
