



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**MELBOURNE'S 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

One hundred and eighty years ago the tall ship '*Enterprize*' sailed up the Yarra River.

Landing a party of five men, one woman, a cat, stores and livestock on the northern bank, a fledgling settlement was begun.

As the town rapidly grew, the motto '*Vires acquirit eundo*' – 'we gather strength as we go' – was chosen for its people.

Borne out over the years, the story of Melbourne's development has been one of rapid growth, great progress and buoyant optimism.

Gold rushes, building booms, industry, innovation and migration have defined Melbourne's history, and created the modern metropolis we know today.

Now a vibrant hub of style, sport, arts and dining, Melbourne is the cultural heart of our nation, and one of the great cities of the world.

As you celebrate Melbourne's 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I offer my warmest congratulations to all its citizens.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Abbott'.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

28 August 2015