

Dear Mayor

I wish to advise you of an unavoidable change in the celebrations for the Centenary of Federation on 9 May 2001.

As you are aware, you will shortly receive a formal joint invitation from the Prime Minister, the Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Parliament and the Premier of Victoria, inviting you to attend the Centenary of Federation National celebrations, in Melbourne on 9 May 2001.

The two key events will be a Joint Sitting of the Commonwealth Parliament and an extensive Commemoration Ceremony to be held in The Royal Exhibition Building, attended by some 7,000 guests, between 12 noon and 5.00 pm.

Unfortunately, The Centenary of Federation Victoria Committee has been forced to cancel a planned reception in the new Melbourne Museum, following these events, simply because of timing and logistical difficulties. Now that the Museum is an operating building, it is clear that the logistics of moving such a large mass of people are not manageable within a reasonable timeframe.

This change has the support of the Federal and State Governments and the Commonwealth Parliament. We believe it will make the day less tiring and will allow guests ample time to make private plans for the evening.

In this regard, on the evenings of 8, 9 and 10 May, Centenary of Federation Victoria, in conjunction with a range of Hotels and Restaurants, will be staging the "Fine Dining in Melbourne" program, which will offer a vast array of dining choices for those visiting Melbourne.

The "Fine Dining in Melbourne" Guide, as part of the official Federation Guide to Melbourne, will be issued to you before May so that you can plan your visit to Melbourne and your involvement in the Centenary events, as well as selecting those restaurants you may wish to try.

I believe this change in the program for the National centrepiece Centenary event on 9 May will result in a more manageable, comfortable and enjoyable day for all those attending.

I look forward to your participation in what will be a very exciting and memorable event.

Kind regards

G. J. V. Nossal

Chairman

Centenary of Federation Victoria

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## Dear Cr Bombak

In 2001, Australia will celebrate the Centenary of our Federation and mark 100 years of nationhood. Throughout the year and across Australia, there will be events and activities designed to achieve this and indeed there will be centreplece celebrations in all States and Territories at different times of the year.

In May of 2001, the national focus will fall on Melbourne, and in particular on 9 May 2001. In the afternoon of 9 May at the Royal Exhibition Building, there will be a commemoration of the opening of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on 9 May 1901 and the marking of the Centenary of the Commonwealth Parliament. This will be followed by an extensive celebration of 100 years of nationhood and finally by the Federation Reception.

These events will take place in the presence of the entire Commonwealth Parliament, representatives of the Parliaments of the States and Territories and a whole range of Australians who will represent every sector of our society, a gathering of 7,500 people from across the Federation. The events are a very Australian celebration. In 1901, the mayor of every local government was included in the opening ceremony and celebrations. In 2001, it is planned that every local government would again be invited to send the mayor or other representative to be part of the Centenary activities.

The treatment of this day is a series of consecutive events which are linked seamlessly. At 2.00pm the program will commence with a Joint Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliament. The Joint Meeting will then be adjourned and the proceedings move to a ceremony of commemoration and celebration, staged also at the Royal Exhibition Building, of Australia's journey across 100 years of nationhood and the contributions by Australians to our nation. To conclude the festivities, the participants will move to the new Melbourne Museum for the Premier of Victoria's Federation Reception.

The invitation to the events on 9 May 2001 will be issued jointly by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Parliament and the Premier of Victoria. These invitations will be issued in late March 2001 and at that time extensive briefings will be provided and involvements planned definitively. Please note that the invitation will entitle the Council's nominee to be accompanied by their spouse or partner.

This letter is to advise you of the extent of the Centenary program for May 2001. As well, we seek to make plain the process and timeframe to be applied in order to enable the appropriate planning to be undertaken. Similar advice will be issued to all participants likely to be in office in May 2001.



The important planning focus of the involvement of all 7,500 participants on 9 May 2001 is that the costs of travel and accommodation etc are to be the responsibility of the jurisdiction or organisation which each participant represents. This approach has been endorsed by all key stakeholders. Of course, this is a matter which Council will need to consider and determine.

The celebrations in Melbourne, however, involve a very extensive range of events and activities which commence on 6 May with 'Our Nation on Parade', Victoria's largest ever street parade and 'Federation Football', and continues through three weeks of the Federation Festival.

The full program is set out on Centenary of Federation Victoria's website: www.federation.vic.gov.au, and we invite you to peruse the extensive program for the May 2001 celebrations. You may wish to consider involvement in some other the other events and activities.

Importantly, we advise, in the event that Council plans to accept the invitation for 9 May, that consideration of accommodation arrangements should be undertaken as soon as possible. Centenary of Federation Victoria has established an extensive Accommodation Guide for Melbourne in May 2001 and this is also included on the CFV website.

The Guide offers a very broad range of accommodation options, with considerable discounts, and can be utilised to arrange directly your preferred location. Attached is a pathway to assist you in reaching the Accommodation Guide and responding to those options.

You should be aware that the extensive array of hotels and apartments with which we have negotiated have agreed to hold rooms so as to enable participants in the 9 May celebrations to secure accommodation of their choice. However, we stress that these arrangements will need to be made by 31 January 2001. Our hotel partners have advised that following this date it will be necessary for them to release our block bookings, so we advise that you secure your preferred venue prior to that time.

In conclusion, in presenting this informal advice to you on the proposed arrangements for the events of 9 May 2001, and hope that you will be able give favourable consideration to participating.

Yours sincerely

David Pitchford \$\text{2} 9285 6314

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Centenary of Federation Victoria

7 December 2000

Bernie Harris

EXECUTIVE CO-ORDINATOR

Centenary of Parliament

James Barr GENERAL MANAGER

National Council for the Centenary of Federation

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