

Federation begins (1951)

NARRATOR: Australia May 1901. To the Foundation of the Commonwealth, the Duke of York was sent by his father, Edward VII, King of Great Britain and the dominions beyond the seas. On May the 9th Princess Mary, Duchess of York, with the Duke who was to rule as King George V, left Government House, Melbourne.

The first Governor General of the Commonwealth had sworn in the first cabinet in January. The parliament was elected in March by the votes of Australian men and women. It was a loyal and devoted country. The people of Melbourne cheered for the nation as the King's son drove through the streets.

At the Exhibition Building the Duke spoke for his father. I now in his name, and on his behalf, declare this Parliament open.