MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

LAUNCH OF MAESTRO JOHN MONASH:
AUSTRALIA’S GREATEST CITIZEN GENERAL

I am pleased to provide this message for the launch of Maestro John Monash: Australia’s Greatest Citizen General.

This book honours the service of one of the First World War’s truly outstanding commanders.

Generations of Australians have rightly revered General Sir John Monash.

He brought organisation and technology to the battlefield to break the stalemate of trench warfare and the futility of men charging against barbed wire and machine guns.

Monash was a brilliant leader. In 1918, he and the Australian Army helped to change the course of history.

His tactics and organisation were the difference between victory and continuing stalemate.

It was the only time Australia’s forces have been in the main battles of the main war and made a major difference to its outcome.

The Honourable Tim Fischer AC has rejuvenated the Monash story so that more people will know of the defining difference he made.

As a veteran, a former Ambassador and Deputy Prime Minister, Tim is uniquely placed to bring Monash to the contemporary reader.

As we begin to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac, we honour all who have been prepared to put their lives on the line for our country.

Their character, courage, mateship and sacrifice, has helped to define what it means to be Australian.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP