



Old
Parliament
House

2021 – The year ahead in democracy at MoAD

The dramatic events in the US capital, Washington DC, in recent weeks has put a new spotlight on democracy and the values we hold dear. They remind us that democracy cannot be taken for granted. We must nurture it, exercise it, recognise when things go awry, and understand what it means in our everyday lives.

That's why trusted museums like MoAD are so important in the way we tell important stories that connect, educate, and expand thinking.

Watching the events in the USA, I was also particularly thankful for the points of difference in our own democratic system – compulsory voting, an independent Australian Electoral Commission, and independent judiciary, to name just three.

With democratic values now centre stage, our major new exhibition for 2021 is timely.

Democracy DNA is an innovative and thought-provoking exhibition that will explore what is Australian democracy in particular, how do we do it, who are the central players, and 'what is my role'? A beautiful and participatory exhibition experience, it will get to the heart of who we are.

When complete, there will be three galleries telling the story of our unique democracy with the first expected to be launched in August. It will build on MoAD's work to date which celebrates Australia's proud democratic history while fostering the participation of its citizens in determining its future.



We are encouraged by our latest visitor feedback surveys that show 70 per cent of visitors said their knowledge of democracy had increased from their visits to MoAD, and 21 per cent said they were inspired to be more active and engaged citizens. We are also thrilled with the high rates of

appreciation for our work, with 97 per cent of visitors rating their visit as very good/excellent. And of course we love that you continue to engage with us on Tripadvisor, where we are rated second in museums to visit in Canberra and third in Canberra places to visit.

In the coming months, we look forward to taking part in the Enlighten Festival in autumn, with creative projections and illuminations of our iconic building. The collaborative event *Hive Mind* from last year's festival will return as a stand-alone exhibition in April, with creative new storytelling and plenty of inspiration from the shared work of honey bees as we continue to make MoAD the centre of Australia's democratic conversations.

I wish all our friends and readers a happy new year.

Daryl Karp AM, Director



On the verandah

Take in the view of Mount Ainslie from the House of Representatives verandah this summer, and learn more about the original design for the provisional parliament building – filled with natural light, courtyards, covered walkways and verandahs. Many of these were closed in as the demand for office space grew over time.

The verandah and its nearby corridor host a display of photographs of the building's construction by William James Mildenhall, public servant and keen amateur photographer.

Open daily until April.

Learn more about the [building](#) and [Mildenhall's Canberra](#).



From our friends

Don't miss the ground-breaking *Endeavour Voyage* exhibition over at the National Museum of Australia, now extended until April.

This important show reconsiders the narrative around the historic 1770 passage of the *Endeavour* up Australia's east coast. It showcases, for the first time, the untold stories of Indigenous communities onshore, alongside those from the ship.

Free timed ticketing until 26 April 2021.

Open daily 9am-5pm.

[Book tickets](#)



Transition of power

Ever wondered why it is so long between the US election and the inauguration?

Brush up on your knowledge about the transition of power and how the US compares to Australia.

Read our latest blog [here](#).



From our shop

New in stock are the Parliament House of Cards from Alex Godwin, artist and self-confessed #auspol nerd. Each deck of playing cards includes 54 cartoons of your favourite Australian politicians, commentators and comedians.

Choose between House of Reps green or Senate red.

You might also like the Election card game, available [online](#), designed by political tragics for political tragics.

All shop sales support the work of the museum.



The Prime Minister's Suite

We know that many of our visitors come to see this iconic heritage building, and among its very



Around the House

We invite MoAD people to choose a favourite place in our iconic building and tell us why it speaks to them on democracy.

rich pickings is the Prime Minister's Office and Suite – the centre of political power during the terms of Whitlam, Fraser and Hawke.

Our latest statistics show this treasure of the north wing was the most enjoyable activity for our visitors in recent months.

Its current presentation evokes the Hawke era from 1983 until parliament moved 'up the hill' in 1988.

"It looks like they've just left for the day," is a common remark from older visitors, alongside "I had a typewriter just like that."

The kids enjoy the peep hole into the PM's office from the office of the Principal Private Secretary, a position now known as Chief-of-Staff.

Learn more about the PM's Suite [here](#)

For Learning Manager Deb Sulway, who leaves us this week after 17 years to explore new adventures, King's Hall is the symbol of our democracy and its story speaks of the past and the present.

"When I stand in King's Hall I'm immersed in a beautiful classically designed space that used to bustle with parliament doings, where anyone could come and stand and engage directly with their MPs.

Today it is at the heart of the museum, a gathering place for Australians young and old seeking to engage with democracy and their part in it."

We thank Deb for her huge contributions to MoAD Learning and beyond, and wish her well in her new endeavours.

Read more about [King's Hall](#)

When visiting us, please follow the below guidelines to help us keep everyone healthy.



We have increased our on-site cleaning to help us protect the community



Remember to wash your hands to protect yourself and others



Keeping a 1.5m physical distance protects everyone



**If you feel
unwell, please
postpone
your visit**



**We recommend
to pre-book your
session time to
avoid a wait**



**Hand sanitiser
is available
throughout
the museum**



Open 9am - 5pm daily

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