

Old
Parliament
House

Whilst restrictions are starting to slightly ease, we understand that we are heading towards a 'new normal'. Australia's democratic process seems to be rising to the challenge with a renewed focus.

At MoAD we are still working hard delivering aspects of the museum to you at home to enjoy, to share and connect with loved ones. We've also been busy carrying out important conservation and building work in preparation for you, our visitors, to return.

We are looking forward to welcoming our MoAD community back to Old Parliament House, but in the meantime keep connected and let us know what you are looking forward to once restrictions are lifted using MoAD's [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Daryl Karp AM

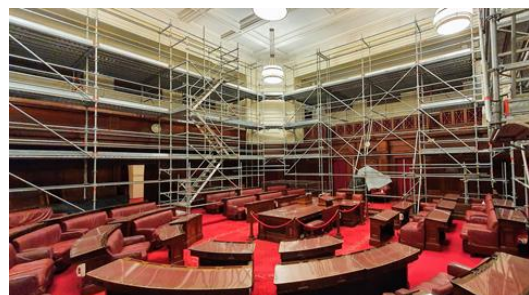
Director



Birthday in isolation

On the weekend, we celebrated Old Parliament House's 93rd Birthday and MoAD's 11th birthday, so our birthday gift to the building is a bit of a facelift! There is a lot of work happening both inside and outside the building.

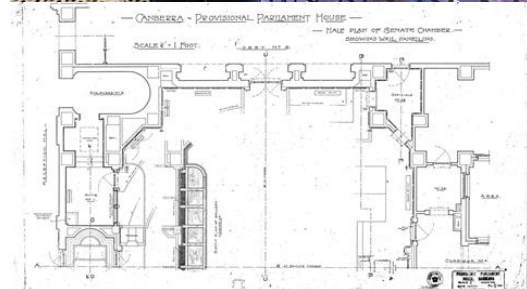
Conservation architect, Meetu Sharma Saxena, has been bravely ascending the Senate chamber scaffolding to work on the render repair project. Armed with a tiny hammer and John Smith Murdoch's original, hand-drawn plans from the early 1920s, Meetu has been investigating and recording every tiny crack in the render, figuring out exactly why they've appeared.



Meetu lightly taps on the wall, then stops to listen. She explains a 'ringing' tone means the crack is superficial, a 'flat' tone means there are more significant repairs to be done. John Smith Murdoch's detailed plans from the 1920's that Meetu is using could not be produced today using

digital architecture rendering software, she says. “The lines for example indicated decorative moulded features that can only be produced using different thicknesses of pens.” she explained

These projects allow us to learn more about the highly skilled, hand-crafted construction of the building. For example, the plaster frieze panels are all slightly different indicating that they were made in timber moulds and installed by hand. Thanks to Meetu, our partners SQC Architecture and Manteena and MoAD’s capital projects and heritage teams, the building will be looking good for our visitors return but also maintained for our future generations.



During this time of lockdown, with some households working and schooling from home, it may be difficult to juggle everyone’s needs.

18 King George Terrace, Canberra, may not seem like a familiar address, but between 1927 and 1988, it was the workplace of some of Australia’s most well-known people, and their families also spent a lot of time there.



Although the economic effects of Covid-19 are expected to worsen in the months ahead, Australia’s social and political fabric seems to be rising to the challenge as a renewed sense of government-community partnership develops.

Post Covid-19, economic recovery needs to be anchored in an inclusive process of democratic

Just like households around Australia, in this house babies played on the floor at their parents' feet, toddlers interrupted adult conversation to get dad's attention, and older kids loved to roller skate around the house, exploring every nook and cranny.

This house is Old Parliament House. And in celebration of International Day of Families, Brian Leadbeatter, takes a look back at one particular family, who spent a lot of time growing up in Old Parliament House.

[Read about the adventures growing up in Old Parliament House >](#)



On Air PlayUP continues every Wednesday live on Instagram and Facebook at 10:30am. This week the team celebrated both World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and International Day of Families.

Our facilitators took PlayUppers step by step through making paper and cardboard phones and laptops to stay in touch with friends and family while we socially distance. If you missed it, the episode along with craft instructions are available on our [website](#).

Next Wednesday, the PlayUP team will be celebrating World Bee Day with busy bee craft fun. We also have the perfect craft activities for

renewal to ensure good outcomes for all Australians. Mark Evans, the Director of Democracy 2025 here at MoAD, and former journalist Mark Kenny, explore why Australia needs a post COVID-19 consensus.

[Read the article >](#)



On 3 May we celebrated World Press Freedom Day, a day which reminds governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom.

Now more than ever a free and trusted press is needed.

Last year, in collaboration with Western Sydney University, Queensland University of Technology and ABC Education, MoAD hosted the News Media Champion Forum.

During this forum, primary and secondary students from across Australia came together at MoAD to share ideas about why a free press is important to

families to make together, even if they are separated by distance.

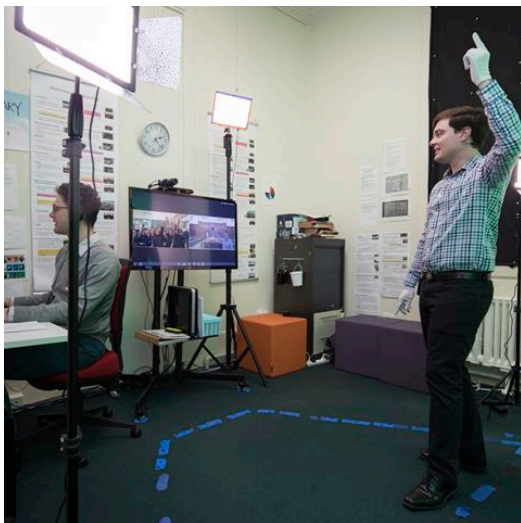
them and how the media can better serve young people.

Simply head to our website where you will find our [Hear what they had to say >](#) family guides full of craft activities and games. You and a special little one in your life could enjoy one of our craft activities together 'virtually' using a tablet and video technology.

[Download the family guide >](#)

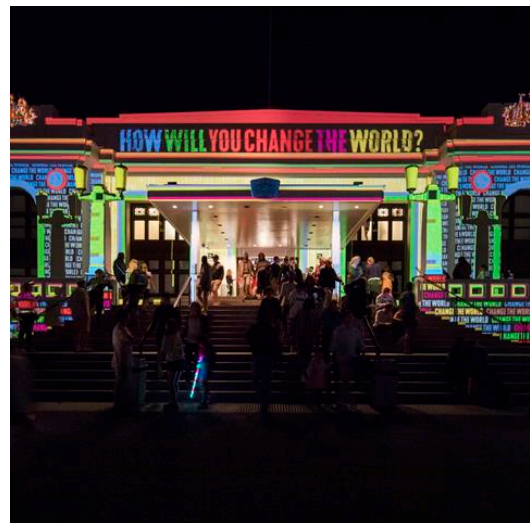
We also launched our PlayUP community Facebook Group last week, it's a great space to connect with the always fabulous PlayUP team, see what other PlayUPpers are doing and share your PlayUP craft creations. Just click the link below to join our PlayUP community.

[Join the Facebook Group >](#)



Last week, we were excited to take the Australian Independent (International) School – Jakarta on a Digital Excursion. We've been running these digital excursions for several months and this was the first international school we virtually welcomed to MoAD.

Twenty-one students based in Indonesia, Sydney and Melbourne interacted with MoAD's Museum Educators to take part in Democracy, Media and Me. Connecting from their homes, the students and their six teachers took a virtual tour through Old Parliament House, interacting with our



The Henry Parkes Foundation recently gave us a generous donation to help expand our Digital Excursion programs by purchasing computers, cameras and green screens.

Our free Digital Excursions take students on a virtual tour through Old Parliament House, give students the chance to immerse themselves in Australia's democratic history.

They offer a practical and high quality alternative as schools and parents face travel restrictions and financial pressures from COVID-19. Donate today

Museum Educators and exploring the important role the media plays in our democracy.

and help us keep our Digital Excursion programs free for students to continue their education.

The [AIS](#) is an inclusive international school that educates children of all backgrounds and learning abilities. Democracy, Media and Me aligns with the AIS's teaching approach to encourage student participation and develop critical-thinking and effective communications skills.

[Support Us >](#)

[Find out more information on MoAD's Digital Excursions >](#)



Open 9am - 5pm daily

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