

October: Events, exhibitions and Melbourne Cup.

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Be surprised, be delighted, be entertained



Cutting caricatures and Politricks transformations

New exhibition 'Ajit Ninan: Cartoonist to the World's Largest Democracy' now open

We were thrilled to launch a new exhibition last month in partnership with Confluence—the Festival of India in Australia.

The exhibition features some of the most compelling political cartoons by Ajit Ninan, one of India's best known cartoonists. Ranging from cutting caricatures ("I always start with the nose. Then decide where to hang the rest of the face...") to the popular four-panel Politricks transformation, Ajit Ninan's work concisely captures the complexity of life in one of our largest neighbours.

Exhibition open until 23 December.

[See the website for details ›](#)



Image: Karen Middleton in discussion with cartoonists Ajit Ninan and David Pope at the launch. Image: Ajit Ninan and David Pope at the exhibition.



Outstanding conservation activity wins two awards

Two of our major conservation activities have been recognised in the ACT National Trust Heritage Awards as Outstanding Projects.

So much goes into conserving this iconic, historic building, often behind the scenes. It's wonderful the dedication and expertise of our Heritage and Facilities teams has been recognised with these well-deserved awards.

Edwina Jans, Head of Heritage, Exhibitions and Engagement accepted the awards for conservation work in King's Hall and the front facade of the building.

In the images above you can see the British coat of arms before and after restoration.



Stay up to date on [Facebook](#) for details.

From the collection

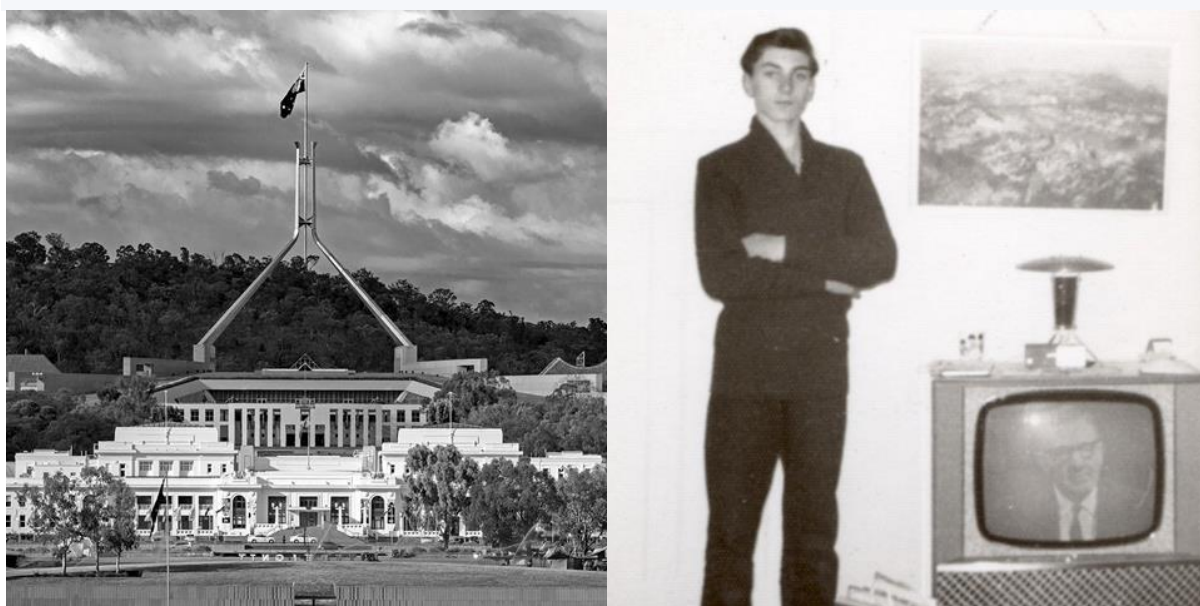


Shadows and memories: Old Parliament House after dark

What does a building contain when it's empty? When the people are gone, the lights are off, and the doors are closed? Old Parliament House in the dead of night is full of shadows, and memories. Our Writer in residence, Sean Williams, stayed late into the night to explore the darkness...

Check out the highlights from [Sean's after dark adventures](#) ›

From the blog



UN Day of Democracy

TV and Democracy. Friend or Foe ?

"Yes, democracy, especially active, fully engaged and passionately direct democracy, can be a remarkably dirty, ugly, nasty animal. But right now we suffer from the opposite problem," says writer and historian Alex McDermott.

On UN International Day of Democracy, we reflected on the health of our polity and the ways we, as citizens, engage with it.

Is a plebiscite a way to improve the health of our democracy? Are there lessons we can learn from the 1917 conscription debate?

[Read Alex's blog ›](#)

Television turned 60 last month, and for many, it's hard to image a time without it.

In 1956 very few Australians had a television set, today there are more than two sets in each household, nearly 19 million in all. Television is so multi-faceted that it is difficult to reach hard and fast conclusions about its positive and negative influences.

It might not seem obvious, but television has had a huge impact on democracy. Barry York explores how.

[Read Barry's blog ›](#)

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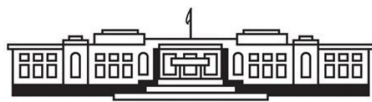
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