

September - Dress Code: EMPIRE & September events

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Be surprised, be delighted, be entertained



Dress Code: EMPIRE - now showing

Does what you wear define who you are? Clothes are political documents. They express national, cultural, spiritual and ideological identity.

In this new exhibition you will discover an intriguing tale of power, prestige and Australia's changing ties to Britain, unravelled through the coat worn by first prime minister, Sir Edmund Barton.

[Discover Dress Code: EMPIRE >](#)

'Howard on Menzies' documentary sheds light on longest-serving PM

Airing on ABC from September 18, the documentary 'Howard on Menzies' profiles Prime Minister Robert Menzies' career and legacy in shaping modern Australia.

Former Prime Minister John Howard curated our Menzies exhibition, which examines the intense and politically-charged term (1939-41) that defined the man who would become Australia's longest-serving prime minister.

On display until Monday 31 October.

Don't miss your last chance to see our [Menzies by John Howard exhibit](#) ›

[Watch the ABC Howard on Menzies trailer](#) ›



Fighting for justice: the 1966 Wave Hill walk-off

50 years ago last month, 200 Gurindji stockmen led by Vincent Lingiari walked off Wave Hill Station, in the Northern Territory. To this day, the walk-off is regarded as one of the largest and most important Aboriginal strikes in Australian history.

Earlier this year Wave Hill striker Jimmy Wave Hill reflected on the walk-off and its enduring impact with filmmaker Brenda Croft.

[Watch the film](#) ›

Upcoming events and tours



Step back in time on the Switched On tour

Do you have a nose for a good story and, more importantly, do you rock a fedora? Then turn up, dress up, tune in and take the role of a reporter in our fun, behind-the-scenes tour, Switched On, marking the 70th anniversary of the first broadcast of the Australian parliament in 1946.

When: weekends in September and October

[Book now to secure your place >](#)

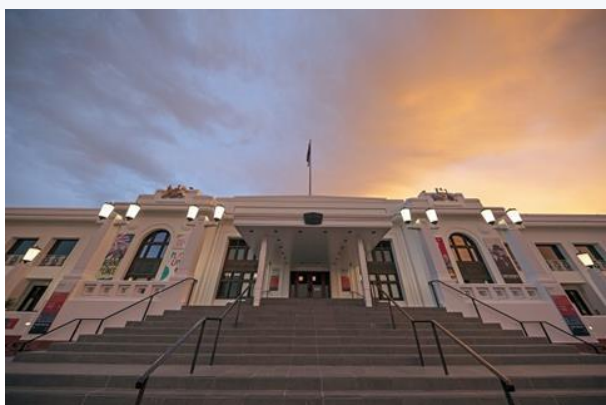


Hot Chips and Ice Sculptures

In this special behind-the-scenes tour, explore the rich atmosphere of the Old Parliament House kitchens, the extraordinary collection of equipment and the scale of food production required to produce banquets for royalty and lunches for politicians, staff and the press gallery.

When: various dates in September and October

[Book now to secure your place >](#)



Friday Night Drinks are back!

Welcome in Spring with Canberra's favourite social destination — Friday Night Drinks at Old Parliament House.

This year will be bigger and better than ever with a different theme each night and great food, drink and entertainment to match.

When: Starts Friday 16 September, 4pm

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



Behind the Lines at The Wharf Revue

Our thought-provoking series of 2015 political cartoons will be on display during The Wharf Revue performances at the Canberra Theatre. This pop-up exhibition will also include a special sneak-peek of the 2016 series of cartoons.

The Wharf Revue will provide a laugh-out-loud, politically charged night filled with a smorgasbord of satirical goodies inspired by (according to Paul Keating) the straight men, fixers and maddies who represent us.

**When: Tuesday 13 - Saturday 24
September**

[Buy tickets to The Wharf Revue >](#)



From the collection

Then and now: the enduring legacy of the Bonnerang



Left: Alfred Bonner holds the Bonnerang at the cultural closing ceremony (photo credit: Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships). Right: Senator Neville Bonner in 1971 (photo credit: National Archives of Australia).

Last month, one of our treasured collection items, the Bonnerang, was taken to Brisbane to be shared with the Bonner family at the cultural closing of the Neville Bonner Building. Neville Bonner was Australia's first Indigenous parliamentarian and was renowned for his boomerang-throwing and making skills.

In the photo on the left, Neville's son Alfred Bonner holds the boomerang made by his father (known as the Bonnerang) at the cultural closing ceremony. The photo on the right shows Senator Neville Bonner demonstrating his boomerang-throwing prowess in the Senate rose garden in 1971. These two incredible images speak volumes to Neville Bonner's enduring legacy through time.

From the blog



Image: Labor leader Dr Bert Evatt arrives to testify at the Royal Commission on Espionage in 1954 (photo credit: State Library of NSW).

Image: Olympian Nova Peris, elected to the NT Senate in 2013 (photo credit: Rick Stevens, 2000, Sydney Morning Herald, Fairfax Syndication).

What's so 'royal' about a royal commission?

With royal commissions in the news recently in relation to juvenile detention in NT and also Australia's banking sector, Michael asks 'what's so royal about a royal commission?'

[Read Michael's blog >](#)

Olympians in politics...

Watching the close of another Olympic Games, you might have thought 'what do all these athletes do now? Off to a regular day job perhaps?' For almost as long as the Olympics have existed, some retired athletes have tried their hand in government.

[Read Erin's account of Olympians in politics >](#)

Hansard Monologues fills the Chamber

In three sold out shows *Hansard Monologues: Age of Entitlement* delighted audiences recently as part of the Canberra Writers Festival.

This masterpiece of political theatre filled the House of Representatives Chamber with the thrills and spills of democracy once again, taking audiences seated in the well-worn green leather on a rollercoaster review of the 44th Parliament of Australia.

[Take a look at the photo gallery >](#)



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Open daily 9am—5pm

18 King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT 2600, Australia PO Box
7088, Canberra BC ACT 2610 02 6270 8222

website@moadoph.gov.au