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FOIA MARKER

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At the center of the House is the Members' Hall, an informal meeting place for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. Public galleries overlook the Hall's striking refelective pool carved from a single block of South Australian granite.

Major Australian works of art and craft have been widely used throughout Parliament House. The nation's history, character and aspirations are reflected in some 70 commissioned works and 3,000 purchased paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, pictures, photographs, and ceramics. The collection focuses primarily on the work of the principal contemporary Australian artists of the 1950s to the present day. It explores two major themes: European settlement and its effect on the Australian landscape, and the development of the Australian parliament.

The color schemes of the two Chambers of the Parliament are based on the traditional Westminster red and green, but have been adapted to reflect colors found in the Australian landscape. The House of Representatives is decorated in the grey-green of Australia's native gum leaves. The color lightens as it graduates upwards. There are currently 148 members of the House of Representatives but the Chamber can seat up to 240 members. There are 76 Senators. A large central skylight lets natural light into the Chamber during the day and glows at night if the House is in session.

The Prime Minister's suite is part of the Ministerial wing at the southern end of the building, adjacent to the Ministerial Courtyard. The integrated design forms an environment where the Prime Minister may work, dine and entertain official guests.

The Great Hall is designed for major ceremonial occasions. The floor, walls and ceiling are made from Australian timbers, including jarrah, brush box, and white birch. The Hall seats 750 people for a formal dinner. The tapestry dominating the Great Hall is based on a painting by Australian artist Arthur Boyd and shows eucalyptus forest in the Shoalhaven area of New South Wales. Measuring 65 feet by 27 feet, it is believed to be the second largest tapestry in the world. The skillfully woven details include a cockatoo in flight and Halley's Comet, which passed through the Australian skies in early 1986. The tapestry was woven by the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and took a team of 13 full-time weavers, 2 1/2 years to complete.

BACKGROUND

FLAGMAST

The 81 metre flagmast atop Australia's new Parliament House has already become an instantly recognisable national symbol.

The Architects, Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp, stated in their design submission that the "... hilltop should be left clear of visible constructions. Only the flag should be present as a permanent rallying point or symbol for the citizens."

The design proposed that the flag, at the intersection of the land axis with the east-west axis of the two Chambers, would be supported by a stainless steel mast structure intended to be an emblem or symbol for the Parliament, the nation, and the people of Australia.

The flag measures twelve metres by six metres. It can be half masted from a remote position using a system of pulleys and winches. To change the flag each month for maintenance, it is necessary to access the higher of two platforms in the central part of the mast structure at the base of the flagpole. This is achieved using the three person access cage that ascends the exterior edge of the south-east mast leg. The cage is unobtrusive, ensuring that the mast structure retains the sharp geometric profile essential to its emblematic role.

The flagmast is made of stainless steel varying in thickness from 16mm to 40mm. Each triangular leg was manufactured in Sydney and brought to the site for erection in sections up to 38 metres long. Erection took a little over four months once the extensive scaffolding had been prepared for the assembly process. Lifting the sections required windless conditions, while for critical welding stages, it was necessary to provide protection from the extremes of Canberra's climate. The overall weight of the flagmast is 220 tonnes, making it one of the largest stainless steel structures in the world.

The flagmast is visible from most parts of the city of Canberra and is particularly prominent at night when the flag is floodlit.

It is, in the words of the architects' original submission, "an emblematic structure, an image to be remembered, like the spires of Westminster or the dome of the US Capitol."

POTUS for 3-5 mins. (may have to stretch if PM's speech is longer).

--15-20 min. remarks to Australian Parliament

--meeting with Australian academic community; talking points (don't know if we're responsible)

--Australian War Memorial

--Governor General Hayden's State Dinner at the Government House 3-5 Remarks

--RON Canberra

File out if we do these



SITES

- 1) Embassy Greetings: The Ambassador's Residence is 50 years old, as are formal Australian-American diplomatic relations. The ground lease for the mansion was signed while the Japanese were bombing Australia. The house was built during the war, and completed in 1943. Mrs. Roosevelt had a personal interest here, and came out after the building's completion to plant a tree.

The current Ambassador to Australia is Mr. Mel Sembler. Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler are from Treasure Island, Florida. In addition to the Embassy in Canberra, the U.S. has three Consulates General in Australia -- one in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth -- and a Consulate in Brisbane. There is also a Consular Agent in Adelaide.

- 2) Address to Australian Parliament:

Parliament House

The building itself is a striking postmodern palace, designed by Roman Giurgola, and completed for the Australian Bicentennial in 1988. The structure incorporates many symbolic features which strive to reflect certain Australian values, and resonate with Australian history, geography, and culture.

For instance, on one side the earth, rather than meeting the building at a right angle, runs gradually from a distance and at an angle right up to the buildings peak flagpole. This design twist represents the accessibility and accountability of Australian government -- that the government are subservient to those they serve.

Another example: in the forecourt of the Parliament, along the walkway POTUS will follow, is a mandelic mosaic design called "Meeting Place" which represents a meeting place for all races and cultures. The work also celebrates Australia's earliest settlers, so it is appropriate that an Aboriginal artist, Michael Nelson Tjakamara, was asked to create the centerpiece. It's pointillist strokes are reminiscent of his tribes sand paintings.

Also neat: one of the original copies of the Magna Carta is housed in the Parliament building.

AUSTRALIAN PROVERBS

Good leaders lead to peace instead of war.

Learning without good behavior is of little worth.

Hope lives first and last in the human breast.

Wisdom's fountains are full and ever flowing.

Good and evil inspirations do not dwell together.

Good deeds require no ceremony's salt to season them.

True friendship cannot live among bad men.

When we liberate ourselves, liberty begins.

Sacred peace heals wounds and makes joy spring from woe.

Some color material in addition to that from Jennifer's preadvance memo:

- The song "A-Waltzing Matilda" is an unofficial national anthem of Australia -- so sang Andrew "Banjo" Paterson in 1895. Contrary to popular belief, he sang it not to an Aussie belle but to his knapsack.
- In 1606, Dutch Captain Willem Janszoon stumbled upon the northeast coast of the smallest continent, the first known European landfall. British Capt. Matthew Flinders' sail around the territory proved that it was one landmass; he named it Australia, from the Latin for "southern."
- The Australian flag is the only flag to fly over an entire continent.
- The written constitution for the Federal Commonwealth of Australia came into force on January 1, 1901. (same time period as POTUS visit)
- 80% of the 16 million Australians cluster in the suburbs of the "Boomerang Coast" -- a thin arc stretching 1,000 miles around the southeastern seaboard from Adelaide to Brisbane.
- Australia is the sixth largest country in the world.
- In Australia, sheep outnumber people.
- It is an insult to a cab driver for any man traveling alone to ride in the back seat.
- The word for thank you, "ta," is uttered even after you yourself have said thank you in a shop or restaurant.
- Each state capital is named after a colonial politician (Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne) or a British royal figure (Adelaide).
- Nearly half of Australia's population was either born outside Australia or has at least one parent who was.

--John Wade, Sr. Curator, Australian National Maritime
Museum, (02)552-7728

AUSTRALIA COLOR

(among other materials, files include extensive info on above
sites, speech excerpts from American Ambassador Sembler

GENERAL

- 1) Australians in film: Errol Flynn, Mel Gibson, Paul Hogan (one of screenwriters and main actor in "Crocodile Dundee"), Dean Semler (cinematographer of "Dances with Wolves.")
- 2) Australians in music: Olivia Newton John, Men At Work, Bee Gees.
- 3) Washington Post cartoonist Patrick Oliphant is from Australia.
- 4) James Tuckey, a lieutenant aboard the ship which took the first unwilling settlers into Port Phillip Bay (the future Melbourne) in 1803 wrote:

"I beheld a second Rome rising from a coalition of banditti. I beheld it giving laws to the world, and superlative in arms and in arts, looking down with proud superiority upon the barbarous nations of the northern hemisphere."
- 5) Maybe POTUS could do a joke about vegemite, or vegemite sandwiches. There's potential for humor in the fact that Australians love the stuff while we think it's yucho. Maybe at a luncheon, "Despite our many similarities, Americans have never really developed a taste for your vegemite. In fact, when I asked about today's menu, I was assured -- no vegemite. \ Actually, I was worried about the broccoli."
- 6) On Australian TV there's a very famous show called, "Skippy the Bush Kangaroo." Everyone knows about Skippy, he's kind of equivalent to our Lassie. Maybe a joke about, "I hear that here in Australia, you have 'Skippy the Bush Kangaroo.' Well, back home we have 'Millie the Bush Canine.' (Tony Mauro: Millie the Bush Scoobydoo). Or, "I was a little nervous about playing golf here, what with all the kangaroos running around. \ Fortunately, I've got Skippy on my side."
- 7) In May 1836, President Jackson appointed J.H. Williams as the first American Consul in Australia. The "Colonist," a newspaper of the day, welcomed his arrival, praising America thus: "Scarcely is there a sea which their ships do not plough, or a port in which they do not ride..." (maybe for Maritime Museum?)

- 8) "The Australians did not seem to me to differ noticeably from Americans, either in dress, carriage, ways...or general appearance."
--Mark Twain, 1895.
- 9) Another link between Australia and the United States during the 19th century: from 1897-1898, Herbert Hoover, later to become the 31st U.S. President, worked in Western Australia as a young mining engineer.
- 10) "Next to our own nation we place our kindred in America."
--Alfred Deakin, 1905 (Australian statesman?)
- 11) In September 1918, Australian and American troops fought alongside each other in the main attack on the Hindenburg Line which ended World War I, a battle experience to be shared again in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.
- 12) In 1969, an Australian radio telescope and an American antenna brought us the historic television pictures of the first manned landing on the moon. The picture everyone remembers -- Neil Armstrong's leg searching for the surface -- was first seen in a tracking station briefing room near Canberra. As a compliment to Australia, NASA in 1971 named Apollo 15 "Endeavor after Captain Cook's Endeavor.
- 13) Australia's coat of arms consist of a shield containing the badges of the 6 states. The supporters are native Australian fauna -- a kangaroo and an emu. A yellow-flowered native plant, wattle, also appears in the design.
- 14) Note: Australia taxes capital gains. (Individuals and companies pay at different rates)
- 15) Bush has called the Australian-American relationship "an intimate partnership between two peoples."
- 16) In the Persian Gulf, the first combined boarding to enforce UN resolutions was by the USS Brewton and the HMAS Darwin.
- 17) 300,000 US tourists visit Australia annually.
- 18) "It will be a very poor day when little Australia won't be able to summon up its traditional impudence by looking at the U.S. and saying, 'What do you mean, you big stiff?'"
--Sir Robert Menzies in the Sydney Morning Herald, 27 June 1964. (Possible rejoinder: "Well, Australia is not all that little, and I hope that America is not all that stiff." Could be relevant re. trade disputes)
- 19) "You must be the most beautiful people in the world."
--Duke Ellington, in the Sydney Morning Herald, 7 Feb. 1970.

- 20) Every year, America sends a high level delegation to participate in the Coral Sea Commemoration. Dan Quayle was here in '89 and Bush was here in '82.
- 21) Rugby and Cricket are Australian national pastimes. Rugby's World Cup will be over by the end of October. It will be the first time an American team has participated.
- 22) One of the most popular Australian television shows is called "The Flying Doctor." Joke potential? LA Law is the most popular American TV show here. The Civil War series was also very popular.

CANBERRA

- 1) American architect Walter Burley Griffin designed Australia's capital. Griffin was from Chicago; studied under Frank Lloyd Wright.
- 2) Canberra is known as "The Bush Capital." I think there is joke potential here, e.g. 'I know Australians and Americans are close, but you didn't have to name your capital after me.')
- 3) Canberra's detractors often refer to the capital as "Monumentsville," "a city without a mind," "the city of the gray flannel mind," and "a great waste of sheep country." Canberra's fans call her "the garden city of the Commonwealth" or "the front window of the nation." They also say that "to know Canberra is to love it."
- 4) The name "Canberra" comes from "Canberry," an Aboriginal word meaning "meeting place."
- 5) In Canberra, the kangaroos have a habit of falling people's swimming pools (don't worry, they don't drown) joke potential?
- 6) Australia has the 10 most popular snakes in the world, starting with the Death Adder.
- 7) POTUS visit coincides with the annual advent of fly season. Aussies are constantly waving off the insects, a gesture so common it's nicknamed the "Australian Wave." Maybe POTUS can joke: "Australians have a reputation for warmth and hospitality. In fact when I got off the plane, I told Barbara how flattered I was that they were all waving to me. She said, 'Sorry to burst your bubble, George, but it's fly season.'"

AUSTRALIA

Words and music by
PETER DODDS McCORMICK (1834-1916)

Maestoso

f
1. Aus - tra - lians all let us re - joice, For
2. Be - neath our rad - iant South - ern Cross We'll

we are young and free; We've gold - en soil and
toil with hearts and hands; To make this Com - mon -

wealth for toil, Our home is girt by sea. Our
wealth of ours Re - nowned of all the lands; For

mf

Adopted as the National Anthem officially in 1984. The words were then slightly changed.

land a - bounds in Na - ture's gifts Of beau - ty rich and
 those who've come a - cross the seas We've bound - less plains to

Words by
 PAULA PRER

rare; In his - t'ry's page, let ev - 'ry stage Ad -
 share; With cour - age let us all com - bine To Ad -

vance Aus - tra - lia fair. } In joy - ful strains then
 vance Aus - tra - lia fair. } cresc.

let us sing, *ff* "Ad - vance Aus - tra - lia Fair."

1.
 2.

Äk
Erd

zu -
 Her

Officially adopted
 •Mozart has been
 according to Austr

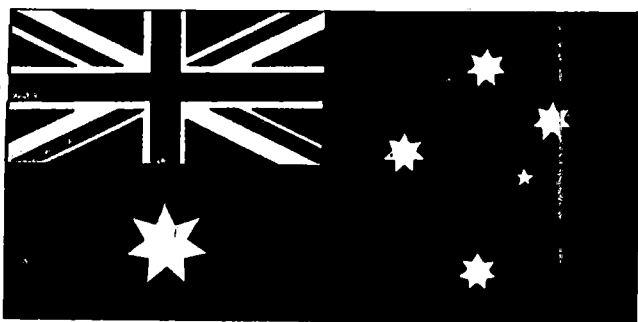
8 AUSTRALIA



STATE ARMS



In 1854 gold miners at the Eureka Stockade in Victoria revolted against corrupt police, limited suffrage, and other political and economic injustices. Their flag was blue with five eight-pointed white stars on a white cross, symbolizing the sky which is common to all men, and hope and liberty. That flag inspired many sub-

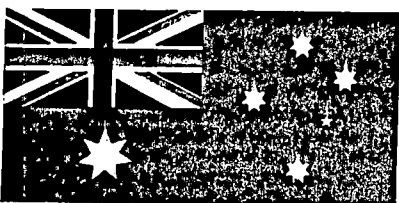


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Officially adopted 22 May 1909; confirmed in present form 15 April 1954.



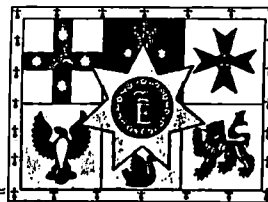
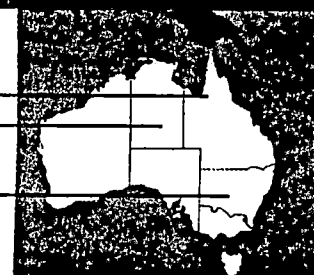
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AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORY

QUEENSLAND
NORTHERN TERRITORY
NEW SOUTH WALES

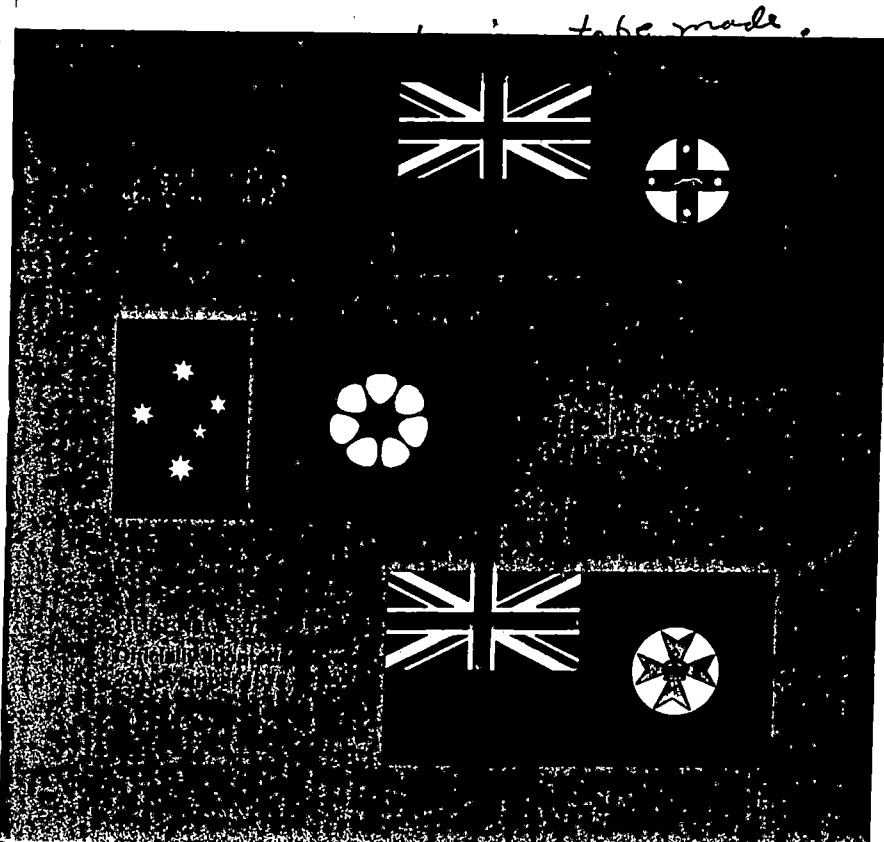


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ROYAL FLAG



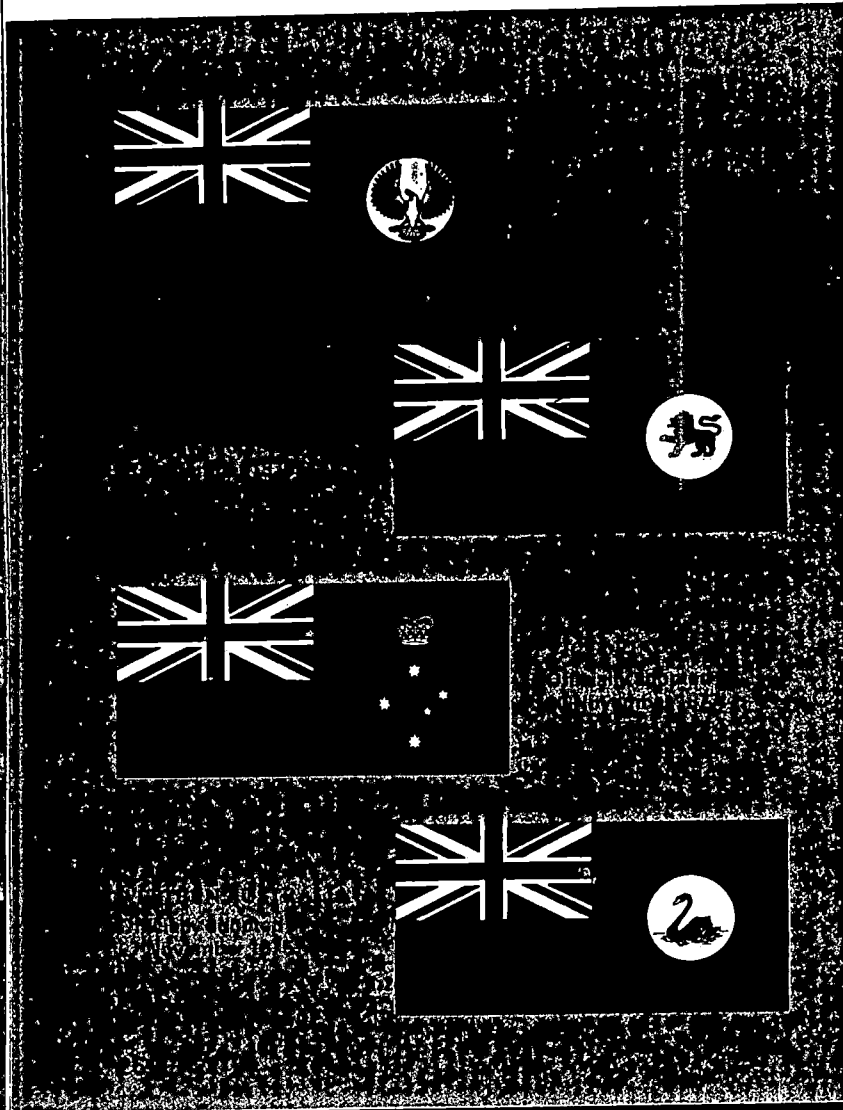
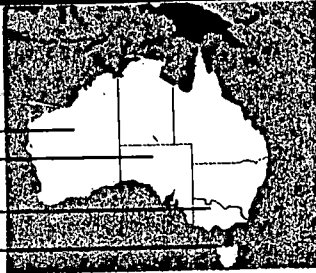
GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FLAG



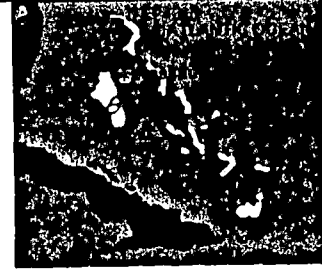
sequent designs. Unification of six British colonies in the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901 called for a national flag. Chosen in a competition which drew more than 30,000 entries, this flag displays the Southern Cross constellation reminiscent of the Eureka Stockade flag. In addition a seven-pointed star (changed from six points in 1909) represents the Commonwealth with its six states and four territories. The Union Jack is a reminder of the historical and political links which Australia has with Britain.

AUSTRALIAN STATES
AND TERRITORY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA
TASMANIA



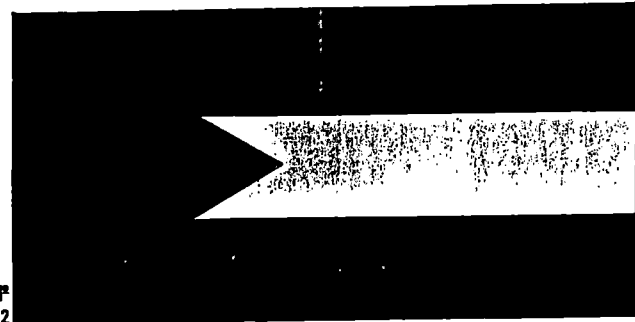
9 THE BAHAMAS



STATE ARMS

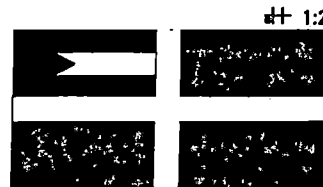
The golden sands of the 700 Bahamian islands are reflected in the center stripe of the flag, while the aquamarine stripes bring to mind the various shades of ocean waters around those islands. The black triangle indicates the unity of the Bahamian people and their determination to develop the resources of

▶ P. 248

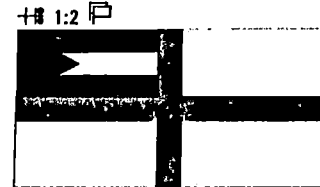


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Officially hoisted 10 July 1973.



GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FLAG



PRIME MINISTER'S FLAG

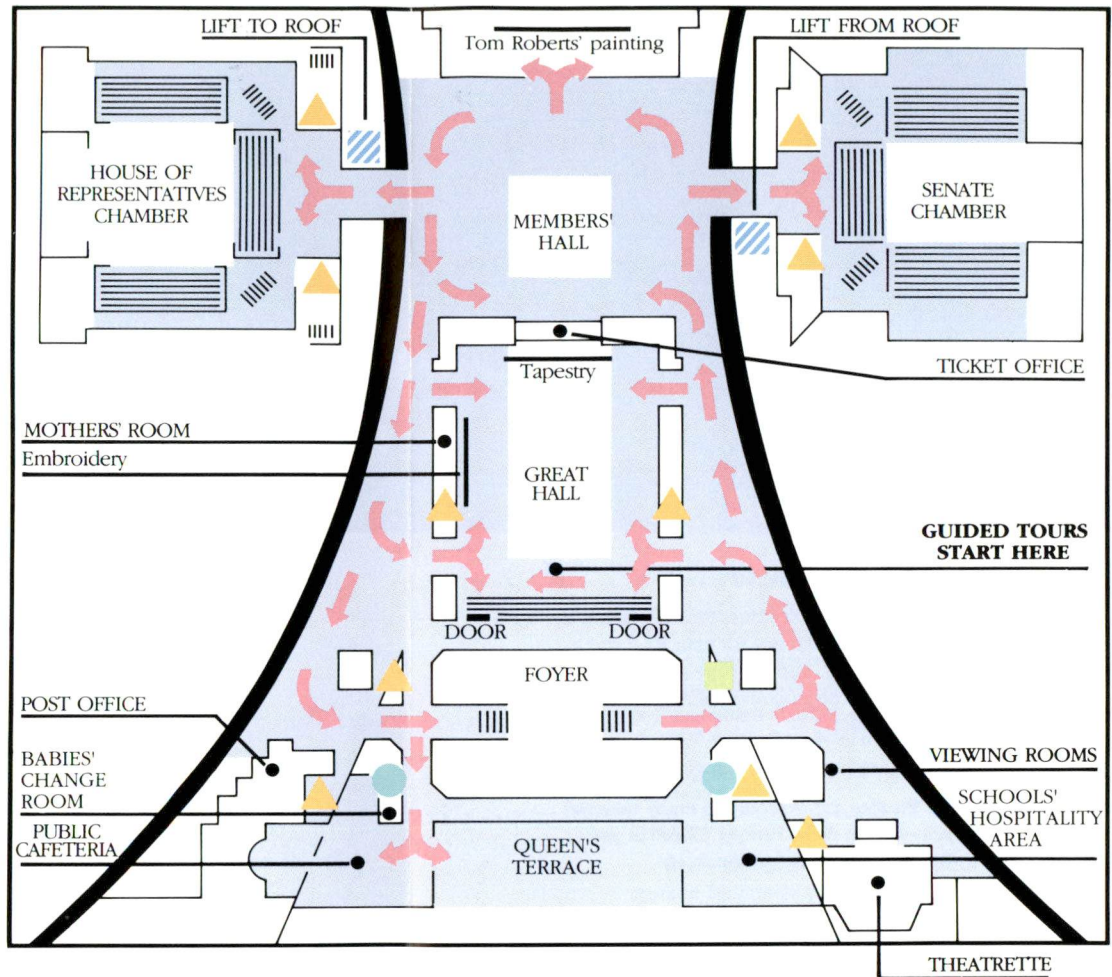


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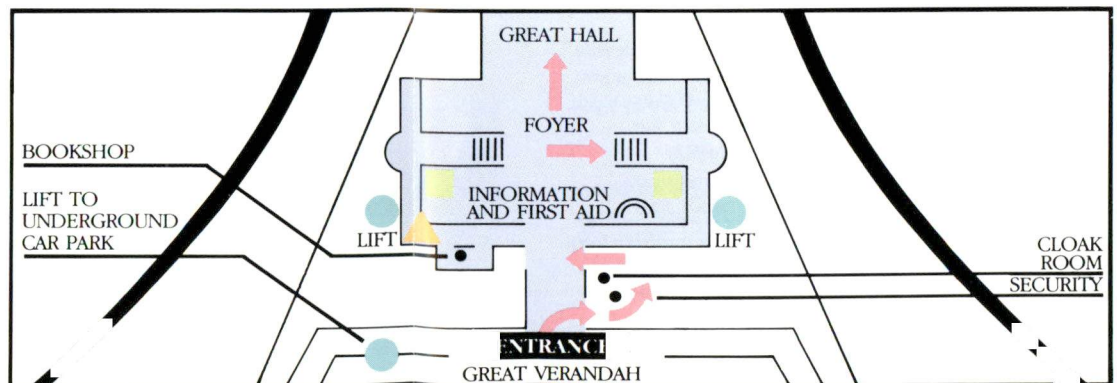
FIRST FLOOR



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-  Roof Access
-  Public Area

GROUND FLOOR



PARLIAMENT HOUSE

B O O K S H O P



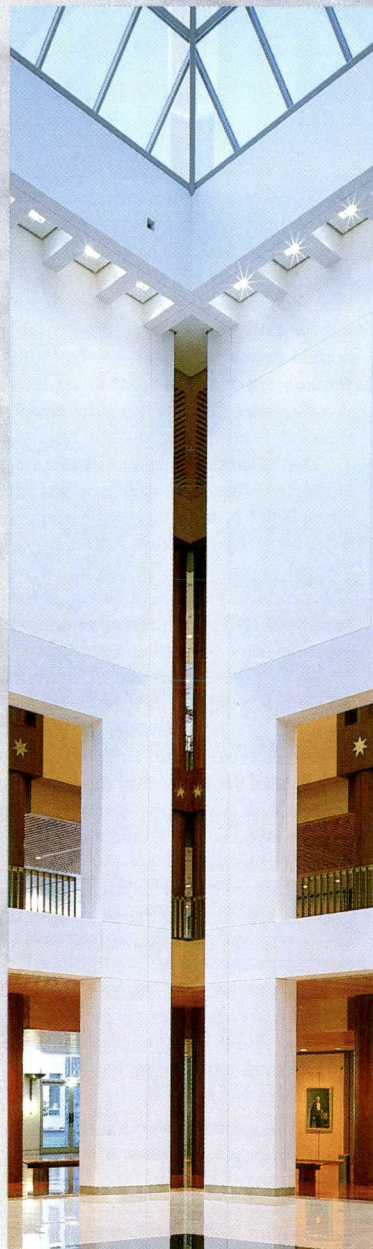
Specialising in all aspects of literature about politics and Parliament, from 'light-hearted' political satires to reference material and political biographies. A wide range of interesting gifts and quality souvenirs to suit all tastes and age groups is available.

The Bookshop, located in the Foyer, is open during usual visiting hours, 7 days a week. Telephone (06) 277 5050.

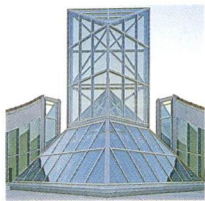
Further information about visitor services:
Joint House Department
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone (06) 277 5023

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

V I S I T O R G U I D E



PRODUCED BY CO-COMMUNICATION. DESIGNED BY CITY GRAPHICS, CANBERRA



Parliament House is Australia's most acclaimed building — a place where visitors are welcome. You are invited to come and

see the home of Australia's Parliament and the meeting place of our nation.

Your first view of Parliament House will be of the huge 81 metre flagmast. This is one of the largest stainless steel structures in the world and is also a central landmark of Canberra. Other highlights of Parliament House include the Foyer, which features 48 marble clad columns and two superbly crafted marble staircases. Designed to be reminiscent of a eucalyptus forest, the Foyer is a showpiece for the beautiful marble and masonry used throughout the building.

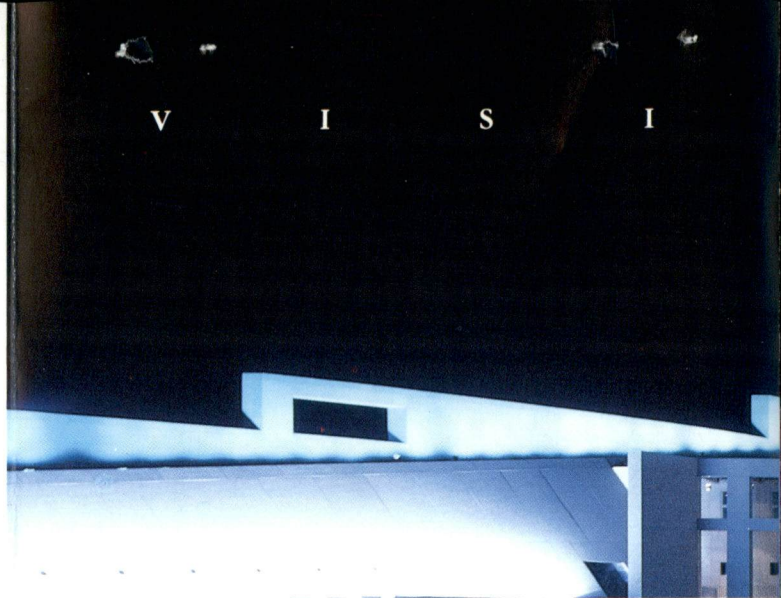
Two magnificent halls in Parliament House are also open to the public. The Great Hall houses a tapestry based on a work by Australian artist, Arthur Boyd. This tapestry is one of the largest in the world. The centre of Parliament House is the Members' Hall which serves as an informal meeting place for Parliamentarians.

An extensive collection of artworks is featured throughout the public areas of the building. Notable paintings include the collection of Australian landscapes on the first floor of the Foyer, and the large portrait collection of Australia's Governors-General, Prime Ministers and Presiding Officers in the Members' Hall.

Visitors are also welcome to walk on the grass ramps covering the building, from which you can enjoy panoramic views over Canberra.

THE CHAMBERS

Public galleries overlook the House of Representatives Chamber at the eastern side of the building and the Senate Chamber to the west. Visitors are able to observe proceedings when Parliament is sitting. Guides explain the operations of each Chamber on non-sitting days.



When Parliament is sitting, question time in both Chambers usually begins at 2 pm and is very popular. Information on how to make prior bookings is available from the ticket office in the Members' Hall or the Serjeant-at-Arms' office, telephone (06) 277 4889. Details of sitting hours for each Chamber can be obtained from the Information Desk.

GUIDED TOURS

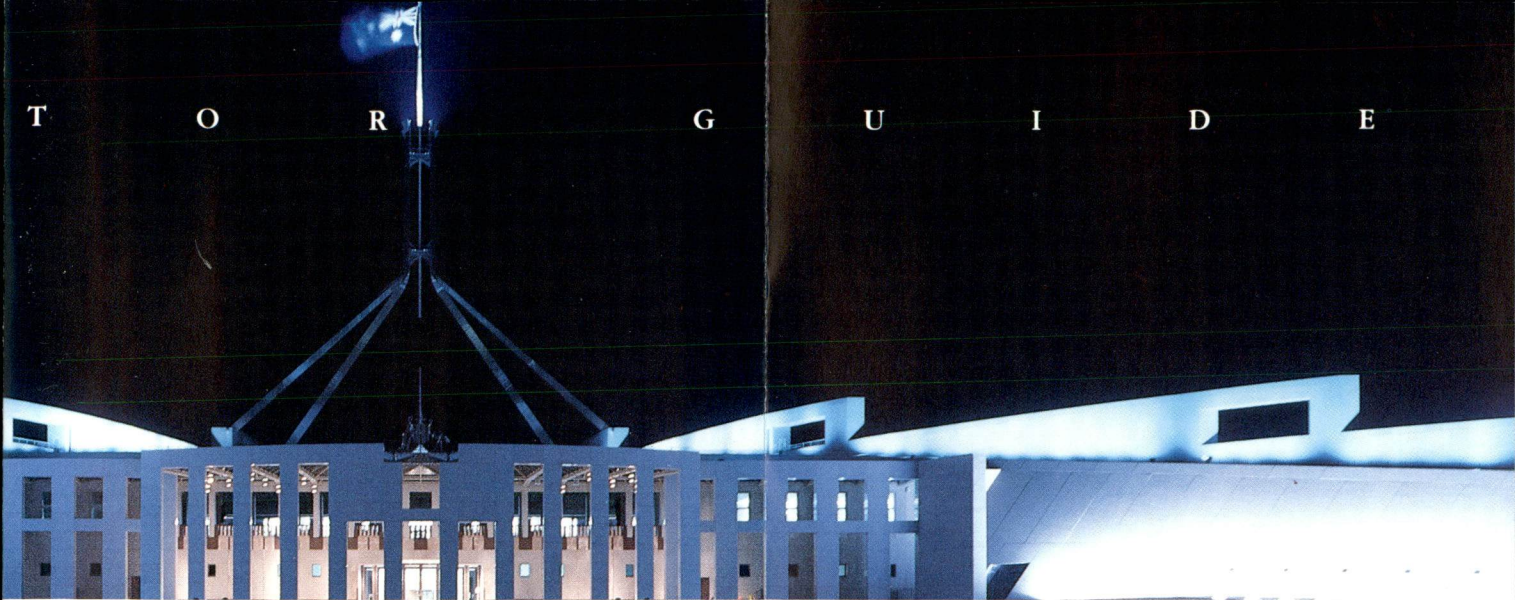
When Parliament is not sitting, guided tours of Parliament House commence at 9.00 am and follow every 30 minutes. Tours commence in the Great Hall gallery with a talk about the building. The group then proceeds to the House of Representatives gallery and the Senate gallery. The total time of the tour is 50 minutes. Tour starts are announced in the Foyer.

Guides are situated in separate galleries of both Chambers to assist visitors who do not want to be part of a guided tour.

When Parliament is sitting, commentaries are provided in the Great Hall. Visitors may tour the building at their own leisure, using the map and suggested tour route included in this brochure.

AUDIO TOUR

An audio cassette tour, providing a detailed description and commentary on the building, is available for hire at the Information Desk.



PICTORIAL GUIDE

The Parliament House Pictorial Guide is an excellent reference for your tour and a great souvenir. This 16 page publication, with superb photographs, is available from the Bookshop.

THEATRETTE/VIEWING ROOMS

Visitors are welcome to enjoy material screened in these venues. Check at the Information Desk for details.

FIRST AID

First aid assistance can be arranged at the Information or Security Desks in the Foyer.

THE CAFETERIA

Situated on the first floor, the cafeteria serves refreshments and light meals seven days a week. It is open from 9 am to 5 pm.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Lift access to the building is marked on the map. A brochure on Parliament House for people with disabilities is available from the Information Desk in the Foyer. If you need assistance, please ask a Guide.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is permitted throughout the public areas of the building, but not

from the galleries of the Chambers when Parliament is sitting.

SECURITY

Baggage brought into Parliament House is subject to scanning by x-ray equipment. Equipment is safe for film to 1600 ASA.

STATIC DISPLAYS

On display in the Members' Hall are some of Australia's most important historical documents, including copies of the Magna Carta and the Constitution Act of 1901.

HOW TO GET THERE

In keeping with Walter Burley Griffin's original plan, Parliament House is the central landmark of Canberra. Access by car to Parliament House is via the ramps running off Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue. The entrance to the extensive underground public car park is off Parliament Drive. Public access to the building is through the northern entrance, the side which overlooks Lake Burley Griffin.

OPENING HOURS

Parliament House is open from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. Opening times are extended for evening sessions of Parliament.