

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23 November 2013

## You've never seen a year like this in politics!

On Friday 29 November, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra, will unveil the year's best political cartoons in the highly anticipated exhibition *Behind the Lines* 2013.

"There's never been a year like this in politics. *Behind the Lines* 2013 tells the tale of three leaders, Gillard, Rudd and Abbott through broken parliamentary alliances, caucus instability, and leadership spills, prime ministerial changes, corruption scandals, cabinet reshuffles, policies and opinion polls," said exhibition curator Dr Tania Cleary.

"2013 will be remembered as a year of challenges for Australia's political leaders, drama for their constituents and endless inspiration for the nation's cartoonists," said Dr Cleary.

The 2013 political year was not for the faint hearted, when every day seemed to bring a new drama, a new front page-story and a witheringly clever cartoon to our attention. Over 80 cartoons make up this year's collection and it's clear that cartoonists can be far from impartial. Political cartoons feed off conflict and there was plenty of conflict leading up to the Federal election on 7 September.

Director of the Museum, Ms Daryl Karp was thrilled with the quality of the selected works from Australia's best political cartoonists, chosen from almost 900 submissions.

"Political cartoonists work in the pressure cooker of the 24 hour news cycle. They have a remarkable ability to blend astute analysis of the day's news with a graphic sensibility, creating a pithy and often hilarious image that cuts to the heart of the political and often human, drama of the day's news," said Ms Karp.

Ms Karp added, "Political cartoons hold a unique place in modern democracies and *Behind the Lines* 2013 is a great example of democracy in action, where cartoonists exercise their right to freedom of speech and expression in their works."

*Behind the Lines: the year's best political cartoons*, opens to the public on Friday 29 November 2013 until November 2014 at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra.

The exhibition is supported by a program of events, holiday workshops, music and comedy. See [MOADOPH.GOV.AU](http://MOADOPH.GOV.AU) for dates and details.

### Ends

#### MEDIA PREVIEW

10.30-11am, Friday 29 November 2013

*If you're unable to attend, please contact the media officer to arrange another time.*

This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

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#### For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Ms Erin Scott, Marketing Officer - 02) 62708135 or [Media@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:Media@moadoph.gov.au)

**Note:** *Behind the Lines*, 2013 is a Museum of Australian Democracy travelling exhibition and will travel throughout Australia in 2013. For touring dates visit the website. [www.moadoph.gov.au](http://www.moadoph.gov.au)