

# MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 16 June 2015

## Museum farewells Prime Ministers portraits in King's Hall – last chance for public viewing

Visitors to the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will have a last chance this month to view the famous Prime Ministers portraits in King's Hall, which will be returned to Australian Parliament House.

The portraits of Lyons, Barton, Watson, Deakin, Reid, Bruce, Hughes, Fraser, Cook and Fisher are part of Parliament House's Historic Memorials Collection and were on loan to Old Parliament House.

Special *Farewell Old Friends* tours of King's Hall will run at 12.45pm each day from Saturday 20 June to Tuesday 23 June 2015.

Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House is encouraging visitors to take this last chance to see the portraits in King's Hall.

"The Prime Ministers portraits have been a significant part of the history of this much loved building, and I would encourage everyone to take an opportunity to view the portraits in situ in King's Hall for the last time," said Ms Karp.

"In returning the portraits to Parliament House, the general public will have the opportunity to see all of the official Prime Ministerial portraits in one place."

Ms Karp said that while the Museum is sad to see the portraits go, the change is an opportunity to take a fresh look at King's Hall, as part of the Museum's strategy to continually change and enhance the visitor experience.

King's Hall will be closed to the public for eight weeks for conservation works and will reopen to the public in September.

Ms Karp said the Museum will be re-interpreting King's Hall to create an exciting new plan for the space, "Our records show that King's Hall has had many interpretations over its history, including when the building was being used as Provisional Parliament House."

"It's interpretation will acknowledge King's Hall's past use as a meeting place and a channel to communicate ideas about people and history while retaining a respect for, and an aesthetic appreciation of, the heritage building and the operations of parliament and government."

For more information on the *Farewell Old Friends* tour, visit the website [www.moadoph.gov.au](http://www.moadoph.gov.au). The Museum will also be planning a farewell to the portraits for staff and volunteers.

A national icon, a place of great beauty, magnificent design and historical significance, Old Parliament House is home to the Museum of Australian Democracy. Celebrate the spirit of Australian Democracy and the power of your voice within it.

**Ends**

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For further information, images or interview opportunities please contact: Kate Connor, [kate.connor@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:kate.connor@moadoph.gov.au), 02 6270 8118, 0451 970 761.