



Old
Parliament
House

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AN ICONIC BUILDING

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JOHN HOWARD MP, FINAL SPEECH AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1988

Source: Parliament of Australia

Over the last few years we have been living through another age. I hope that if there is some resolve that we all might jointly have as we move to the new building – hoping, in that new building, to blend new traditions that will inevitably emerge with some of the old traditions of this building-it is to put behind us what I think is the age of apology through which I believe this country has unfortunately tended to pass in recent years. We have spent a little too much time over the last few years – I assure my friends opposite that this is not offered as a partisan comment – apologising a little too much for far too many things about our past.

PRINCE ALBERT, DUKE OF YORK, SPEECH OPENING OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1927

Source: Parliament of Australia

How much has happened in the quarter of a century since the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament! What changes in the world! What revolution in human life and thought! What marvellous progress in the means of communication and locomotion! For Australia and the whole Empire it has been a period of extraordinary evolution and development.



TOM UREN MP, FINAL SPEECH AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1988

Source: Parliament of Australia

I thank the House for its patience. It is a great place. I say to the younger members, 'This is a kind of ring and there is what you can call the Marquess of Queensberry rule: if you want to get into the gutter, you will be given the gutter treatment. On the other hand, if you get off personalities and stay on policy, in the long term you will bring the best out in people.' Policy not personalities. Stick to policies, seek out men and women of goodwill within this Parliament. I understand that that is what the committee system is helping to do. It is breaking down the barriers to fraternisation. That is how we have to go forward to make this a better Australia and a better world.

ANDREW PEACOCK MP, FINAL SPEECH AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1988

Source: Parliament of Australia

Every time we strike at those elements of justice and liberty that have developed over time we take a retrograde step. I said I will be brief. I wish honourable members on both sides of the House well in transferring to the new Parliament. May it be for all of us while we remain here an endless adventure screens in George Lucas's magnificent space opera in 1977. I do point out, Senator Smith, that I was 12, and I thought Mark Hamill was actually quite handy. C-3PO and R2-D2 started us on a journey that traversed hyperspace. The movie transcended a generation. I remember my two boys, Will and Henry, at a very young age being transfixed by their remote-controlled Darth Vader.



BOB HAWKE MP, FINAL SPEECH AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1988

Source: Parliament of Australia

At the close of the second era we can proclaim the success of the experiment embarked upon by our forebears – the building of a nation founded on parliamentary democracy. In these last moments here we can look back with pride and with affection. But now we go forward, not just to a new home but to a new era of achievement in the service of democracy, in the service of a great people and a great nation and in the service of one of the truly great parliaments of the world.