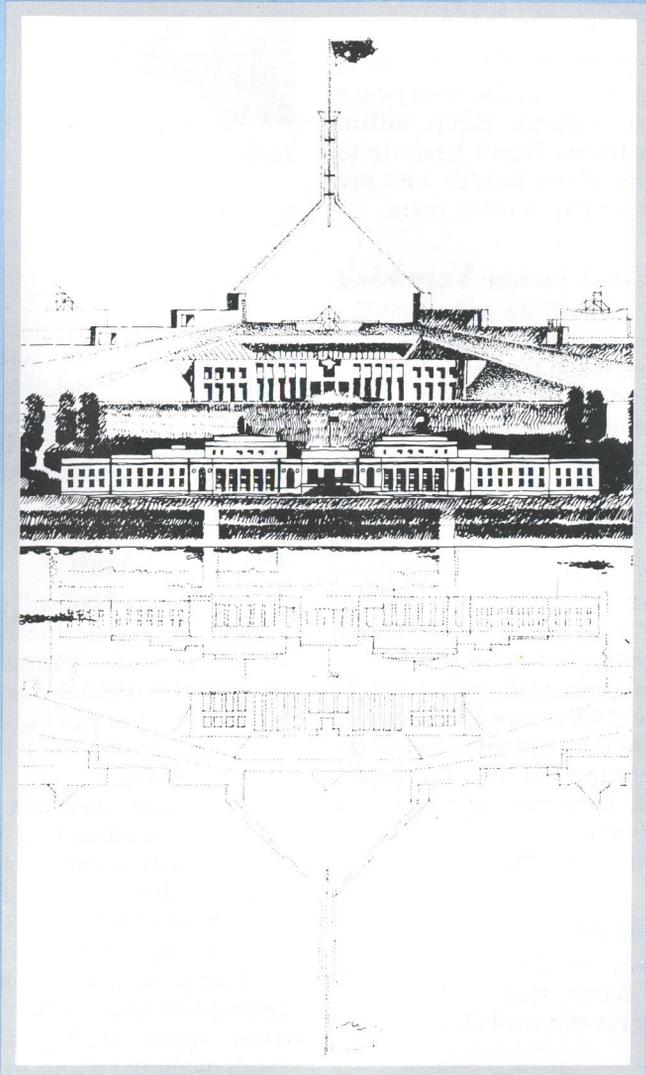


# OPEN DAY



*Sunday 12 October 1986*

## Exhibition Centre

We suggest that you include a visit to our Exhibition Centre, just off State Circle, either at the beginning or end of your visit.

Displays include scale models, architects' plans and drawings, recent photographs, material samples, an audio-visual programme and a special temporary exhibition featuring the flagmast.

The Exhibition Centre has become one of Canberra's most popular visitor attractions and is a particular favourite with school groups from all over Australia.

The Centre is open 9.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. every day except Good Friday and Christmas Day.

This open day has been organised by the Parliament House Construction Authority in conjunction with the Lions Clubs of the Canberra and Queanbeyan Region. The transport is provided by courtesy of Lever Coach Lines (97 3133) and Ansett Pioneer (45 6624), members of the Bus and Coach Association, ACT Branch.

The drivers employed by these companies have kindly donated their time.

All proceeds will be distributed to charities nominated by the Lions Clubs. The charities to benefit from this Site Open Day include the Salvation Army, Malkara Special School, Canberra One Parent Family Support, Birthright, and the Diabetes Association of the ACT.

## Video

The popular audio-visual program running in the Exhibition Centre theatre is now available as a video. In a short (14-minute) entertaining way it covers the story of the project from its beginnings with Federation; through the selection of the site for the National Capital, Burley Griffin's Canberra and construction of the provisional Parliament House; to the decision to build a permanent building and the way it has been implemented.

Prices are \$15 VHS, \$20 Beta and \$50 U-matic at the Exhibition Centre. Postage and packing are extra.

## Australia's New Parliament House

This newly-released 86-page book is the most up-to-date description of the building as it will be upon completion. It tells the complete story of the project through an easy-to-read, descriptive text lavishly illustrated with photographs of architects' models, plans and drawings; the building under construction; and some of the key people involved in this national project.

Available for \$9 at the Exhibition Centre or \$12 by mail.

## Welcome to Australia's new Parliament House

Today's tour through the new Parliament House formally begins at the Forecourt to the building. Access to the site is either by bus or on foot. The bus route will take you by the southern and western sides of the site, past the Ministerial Wing and the Senate Chamber and surrounding offices.

If you choose to proceed on foot, the route will take you past the House of Representatives Wing and the underground car park on the eastern side of the building.

**Please remember that this is a building site, and exercise every care as you move around. Keep within the safety barriers. Don't hesitate to ask questions of the guides who are all members of the project team.**

### Forecourt and Great Verandah

From the Forecourt, we approach the Great Verandah, the major ceremonial and public entrance to the building.

In the middle of the Forecourt will be a pool with plays of water and a central landscaped island which will be reached by three bridges. The island's main feature will be a granite mosaic, based on a painting by an Aboriginal artist from Papunya, in the Northern Territory. The Forecourt will be paved with crushed red ochre granite, framed by black granite paving bands.

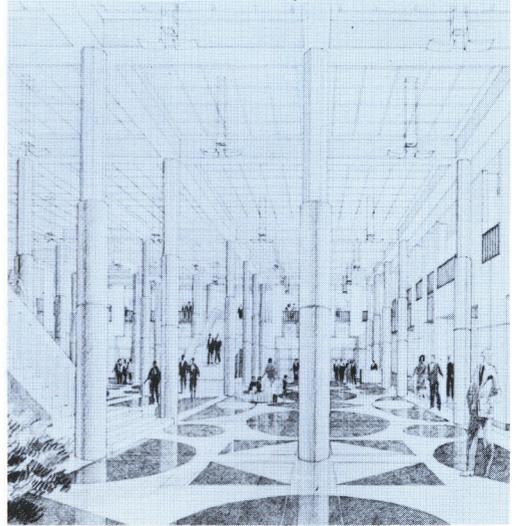
The Great Verandah will have 22 white marble columns and a glass roof. In addition to the approach across the Forecourt, visitors to the completed building will have easy access to the Verandah by stairs or a lift from the car park below the Forecourt.

### Foundation Stone

At the entrance to the building is the Foundation Stone, laid by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, on 4 October 1983.

### Foyer

The Foyer is the point of entry for most visitors to the building and leads to the major public areas in the building. This monumental space is punctuated



*Foyer*

by forty-eight columns supporting the Members' Terrace above.

The columns will be clad in grey-green marble, while the floor will be black and white marble, and the wall panelling of precast concrete.

The best of Australian materials and craftsmanship will be used throughout the new Parliament House. All the timber and more than 90% of the stone will be Australian.

### Reception Hall

The Reception Hall will provide Parliament with a much needed facility for state receptions, banquets and other important national functions. When not in use for one of these events, it will be available for exhibitions and for public viewing.

The room measures 1155 square metres, large enough to seat 850 people at a banquet or cater for 1500 guests at a buffet. There is a preparation kitchen near the Hall, which receives food from the main kitchens in the basement.

A large skylight in the centre of the ceiling will allow natural light into this great space, highlighting the white birch wall panelling and jarrah parquetry floor.

On the wall at the southern end of the Hall, there will be a great tapestry in the design of a densely timbered landscape. In the first floor eastern



*Reception Hall*

gallery, there will be a monumental embroidery, being worked by many of the 7000 members of the Embroiderers Guild of Australia. It tells the story of the Australian land before, during and after European settlement.

## **Members' Hall**

At the heart of the building and the centre of the site is the Members' Hall, three storeys high and the focal point of all the circulation corridors. From the first floor galleries the public will move freely to the House and Senate galleries and the Committee Rooms, and by lift to the roof terrace beneath the flag mast. A huge skylight canopy will allow the flag flying above the building to be seen from within the Hall.

## **House of Representatives Chamber**

From the Members' Hall, glazed walkways will lead east to the House of Representatives Chamber and west to the Senate Chamber. Both Chambers are based on the tradition of the Chambers in Westminster and in the present provisional Parliament House.

The House of Representatives Chamber comprises a column-free space of three levels, with a large central skylight for natural lighting. At night, the light



*Members' Hall*

within the Chamber will be visible from outside the building and will indicate that the House is in session.

The floor of the Chamber and adjacent Lobbies are on the ground level; public, V.I.P. and media galleries at first floor level, and soundproof and translation galleries at second floor level.

The colour schemes for both Chambers, while based on the traditional green for the House of Representatives and red for the Senate, will feature tones derived from the greens and reds characteristic of the Australian landscape.

The Chamber is surrounded by offices for Members and their staff.

## **Ministerial Wing**

The Ministerial Wing, to the south of the Members' Hall, will accommodate the Prime Minister and other Ministers.

The Wing includes the Prime Minister's Office and office areas for other Ministers, ranged around a central courtyard to which vehicle access is available. The Cabinet Room and Cabinet Committee Rooms are within the central zone just to the north of the Ministerial Wing.

Offices for Ministers provide accommodation similar to Members' and Senators' offices, although expanded in