



‘Not too long ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

It was 21 May. The year? 2022. What begins like any other election day with the smell of democracy sausages wafting through the air at thousands of Australian schools, ends in an election result very few saw coming.

New alien lifeform in the shape of ‘teal independents’ appear, Peter Dutton takes over the starship Liberal Party, and Anthony Albanese changes Australia’s course, steering it through new COVID-19 variants, the 46th parliament and economic turbulence...’

Strap in as we blast *Off the Planet* in *Behind the Lines 2022: the year in political cartoons*

Prepare for lift-off as the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) launches you into its new exhibition *Behind the Lines 2022: the year in political cartoons*.

“This year’s theme, *Off the Planet*, is an exploration of all things alien and astronomical that have occurred in politics in Australia and around the world,” says MoAD Acting Director Andrew Harper.

“As Australians emerged from lockdowns and isolation, we exploded from our homes into the world. Our borders reopened, and we were eager to get back to ‘new normal’, says exhibition curator Amy Lay.

“But while we’d hoped the COVID-19 pandemic was over and the world would return to normality, a feeling of uncertainty continued throughout the year.”

Australians faced new challenges with war and inflation hitting hip pockets, while an Australian election threw some curve balls very few saw coming, Amy says.

“A new ship’s captain was selected, marking a new course for star ship Australia, while a new alien lifeform – teal independents – emerged. We looked to the stars to try and guess what the future holds.”

This year’s exhibition continues to feature emerging artists who share their work on social media, eschewing the traditional route of newspapers and opinion pages.

“By featuring cartoonists who haven’t come from traditional media, we’re reflecting the evolution of cartooning, media and Australian democracy that incorporates newer formats that challenge our ways of thinking,” Amy says.

Held annually for the past two decades, *Behind the Lines* has become a mainstay of MoAD’s exhibition offerings, encouraging the public to take another look at the year that was, through witty, insightful and often poignant cartoons.

“Political cartoons are a sign of a healthy democracy,” says Andrew Harper.

“Australia has a proud history of political cartooning, an aspect of the nation’s democratic values that include free speech, free expression and free media.”



Museum of
Australian Democracy
Old Parliament House

Media release

[*Behind the Lines 2022: the year in political cartoons - Off the Planet opens*](#) to the public at the Museum of Australian Democracy on 1 December 2022 and runs for 12 months. The Museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm.

Exhibition URL: <https://behindthelines.moadoph.gov.au/2022>

ENDS

For more information, please contact Simon Jenkins on (02) 6270 8120 or email media@moadoph.gov.au