1 March 2023

MoAD reopens during Enlighten with *The People's House*

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House is open late during Enlighten this year with a range of events to suit everyone. *The People's House* is a free event that celebrates the people who made this house a hive of activity for over 60 years. Visitors can also step back in time at two paid events, a 70's themed disco fever night, and an 80's cocktail event in our Members Dining Rooms.

The People's House is an adventure for all ages, exploring the untold stories of the people who kept the clocks ticking, meals cooked, hair styled, memos typed and the parliamentary record accurate.

'Many people think of MPs, senators and ministers when they think of Old Parliament House, yet there were so many people in other important roles that kept the place humming,' says MoAD's new Director Stephanie Bull.

Over four nights, visitors can find out if they have what it takes to be a 1940s Hansard reporter, a 50s maintenance worker, a 60s typist, a 70s hairdresser or a chef from the 80s. MoAD's team will offer visitors a quick course in these jobs before inviting them to complete tasks and collect a souvenir for their efforts.

In a first for MoAD, the theme of the illuminations on the outside of the building is also carried inside. Artist Trevor Dickinson, known for his iconic Canberra bus shelter designs, created these illustrations based on iconic places, eras and objects from the building.

Beloved heritage clocks, a Hansard proofs box, the barber chair from MoAD's collection and bins originally designed in 1927 are amongst the objects that have been reimagined through Trevor's eyes.

'Trevor's attention to detail and ability to give objects personality presented the perfect opportunity to showcase some of the overlooked spaces, objects and occupations unique to this incredible building,' says Manger of Museum Engagement, Amy Wolgamot.

'Performers will bring the occupations to life,' says Amy. 'You may find yourself roaming the halls with the Hansard reporter, you could stumble across the maintenance worker fixing a clock or get hairstyling tips from the hairdresser. You'll be able to use a typewriter, decode shorthand, try on 70's hairstyle wigs or put together an 80s menu using all those iconic 80's foods. It'll be a fun way to explore the building.'

'As a museum, MoAD is always interested in inviting visitors to see the building in a new light and sharing the stories about the people and places that made this place special,' Stephanie says.

'It's the first time since the Covid19 and building fire closures that the Museum's been open during the Enlighten festival and we're so excited to welcome visitors back.'

The People's House runs on Friday and Saturday nights of 3,4 and 10,11 March, from 7pm-10.30pm. Building illuminations will be shown from Friday 3 March to Monday 13 March from 8pm-11pm.

The two paid ticketed events in the Members Bar are hosted by Restaurant Associates and run on the first weekend of Enlighten:.

- [80's Cocktail Night](#) on Friday 3 March
- [70's Disco Fever](#) on Saturday 4 March.

Media preview

MoAD is involved with a media preview that is hosted by Events ACT on **Wednesday 1 March**. Our preview will start at 8.15pm and run for 20 minutes. For enquiries relating to the broader media preview event, please contact Natalia Webster at Events ACT on 0466 721 752.

Please note, photos will be available upon request after the media preview on 2 March.

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