


April 2017

DIALOGUE

From the Office of Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate

www.stephenparry.com.au



Official parliamentary photographer
David Foote celebrating 25 years - pg 14

Princess Mary captured by David Foote outside the National Portrait Gallery (November, 2011)

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EDITORIAL

It's been another interesting start to the Parliamentary year, particularly in the Senate.

On the first day of sitting this year I made a statement about One Nation's Rod Culleton and his ineligibility to sit in the Senate due to bankruptcy. He has since been replaced by Peter Georgiou who took his seat as the new Western Australian Senator last month.

The Senate, however, still didn't have its full complement of 76, with the absence of Family First Senator Bob Day, who was last month ruled by the High Court as invalidly elected due to profiting from a Commonwealth lease. It's expected that a South Australian replacement will be sworn in when Parliament next sits on 9 May.

Back home in Tasmania, your Liberal Senate Team continues working hard to progress our state and to deliver projects including

- \$2 billion to 2019-20 for Tasmanian hospitals
- \$150 million to relocate and expand the UTAS campuses in Launceston and Burnie. This funding will be used to build a university campus at Inveresk and provide modern, world-class teaching, learning and research facilities

- A \$25 million Tasmanian Regional Jobs and Investment Package. Funding will support projects that meet regional priorities and boost sustainable economic growth and create jobs
- \$1 million to progress the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. The Commonwealth has committed the funds to progress the Plan to take it investment-ready stage
- \$24 million to upgrade the Hobart Airport roundabout, with construction of an overpass.

I have been following the progress since the recent forum in Launceston looking at female representation in the Liberal Party. Premier Will Hodgman is leading an initiative to see women make up 50% of representation in state politics by 2022. You can read more about the forum in this edition of *Dialogue*.

Also featured in this edition is *The Official Observer* – Australian Government Photographer David Foote. David is celebrating 25 years in the industry with a special exhibition at Parliament House and he has been kind enough to allow me to print a selection of his works.

And the call is out to find the best fish and chips in Australia, so let's get behind our Tasmanian outlets to promote our local produce. The 2017 Australian Fish and Chips Awards is an initiative of the Federal Government to promote the fishing industry. See back page for details on how you can vote.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Dialogue* and, as always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.



Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate

SOCIAL MEDIA & POLITICS

Transforming the Political Landscape

In discussions centred on modern political communication methods, no issue raises more heated debate than social media and its place as a legitimate campaign tool.

While radio and television transformed elections in the last century, social media is seen by many as the medium of the future, forever altering the way politicians and candidates engage with voters.

The ability of platforms like Twitter and Facebook to communicate directly and unfiltered with constituents was highlighted during the recent American election. Who could forget:

“The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!”

Globally, Twitter has more than 300 million users - 2.8 million in Australia. The power of Twitter lies with its short, interactive posts, limited to 140 characters. This allows candidates and their campaign teams to post succinct political messages and evaluate their effectiveness almost immediately. With the public able to respond instantly, campaign teams can easily track and gauge the evolving views of their voters.



algorithm that controls its “newsfeed” functionality, demonstrates the capacity of a platform to filter the material that users are exposed to.

Alarming, Facebook programmers’ ability to tweak the algorithm to make users happy or sad, expose them to new and challenging ideas or insulate them in

While Barack Obama was lauded for his use of social media during his 2008 and 2012 presidential election campaigns, Donald Trump has arguably been the most successful in recent times. He controlled the agenda in a way his opponent could not, and effectively reached the masses with his often controversial tweets which were then heavily covered in mainstream media.

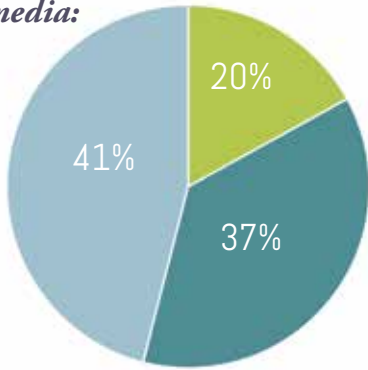
If Twitter is the platform for unfiltered access to constituents, Facebook and the secret

ideological bubbles, can shape the lives and reading habits of nearly 2 billion people worldwide.

This capacity to control the content at an individual level, and without the user being aware, has powerful implications for political campaigns. Worryingly, in 2016, Facebook came under heavy fire amidst allegations that they were deliberately leaving popular conservative news items off the site’s ‘trending’ section. Facebook has denied these claims.



How respondents feel about political discussions on social media:

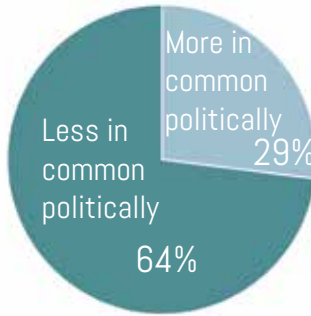


- Like seeing lots of political posts and discussions
- Are worn out by how many political posts and discussions they see
- Don't feel strongly one way or another

When discussing politics on social media with people they disagree with, respondents find the dialogue to be:



When discussing opposing views, respondents find that in the end they have:



Source: Survey conducted July-Aug, 2016. "The Political Environment and Social Media"
PEW RESEARCH.

THE RISE OF POLITICAL CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Political content and discussion forums on social media sites are becoming increasingly popular as parties and opinion makers recognise the benefits of access and affordability.

While some users feel energised and welcome this new form of engagement, a recent survey by the Pew Research Centre indicates that the constant bombardment of political messaging is resulting in political "fatigue". More worrying is the claim that social media is fuelling widespread polarisation and partisan animosity. Technology has allowed some users to anonymously hide behind a keyboard and participate in toxic, unfiltered exchanges. The consequence of this is that political debates on Facebook are beginning to turn more people away than they are engaging.



THE BIGGEST TRENDS ON TWITTER FOR AUSTRALIANS IN 2016

1. **#auspol**
2. **#ausvotes**
3. #Rio2016
4. **#qanda**
5. **#Brexit**
6. **#ElectionNight**
7. #ARIAs
8. #PokemonGo
9. #AustraliaDay
10. #ausopen



THE BIGGEST TRENDS ON FACEBOOK FOR AUSTRALIANS IN 2016

1. **US elections**
2. **Malcolm Turnbull**
3. Shark attacks
4. David Bowie
5. Pokemon Go
6. **Pauline Hanson**
7. Bulldogs & AFL GF
8. **Brexit**
9. **Rodrigo Duterte**
10. Olympics

INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING "WHAT'S HAPPENING" IN PARLIAMENT? THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE BOTH HAVE THEIR OWN TWITTER PAGES.

SENATE
@auSenate

HOUSE OF REPS
@AboutTheHouse

Facebook rates its top 10 yearly trends by analysing posts in an aggregated, anonymised way and ranked to create a snapshot of the year.

IN TASMANIA

January - March 2017 Update



photo: Lake Geeves, Tourism Tasmania

Funding commitment for tourism study

Federal Tourism Minister Steven Ciobo recently announced the government would deliver \$70,000 for a demand study into the Geeves Effect wilderness precinct development proposal in southern Tasmania.

The funding was committed to under an agreement signed by Minister Ciobo and Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman.

The study will assess the feasibility of opening Lake Geeves, part of the Federation Peak World Heritage Areas, to “dry shoe” walkers.

Additionally, the study will look at the possibility of building accommodation and other wilderness experiences in the Southern Forests, just outside of the World Heritage Area.

Improvements to Farm Household Allowance

Tasmanian farmers are set to benefit from improvements to the delivery of the Farm Household Allowance payment.

The Federal Government is committed to ensuring the allowance continues to meet its intent and the improvements will make it easier for those experiencing hardship.

Amendments have been made to the *Farm Household Support Act 2014* to clarify the definition of farm assets used in the running of a business. The changes mean more farm businesses will be eligible to receive assistance because farm assets, such as water, will be treated in the same light as other assets needed to run a farm business, such as land and machinery.

Significantly, the legislation also removes the requirement to serve an Ordinary Waiting Period or Liquid Assets Waiting Period before applicants can receive payment, significantly decreasing the delay in receiving their payments.

For more information visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance

QUEENSTOWN AIRSTRIP UPGRADE FUNDING DELIVERED

Residents of Queenstown will have improved access to basic services and essential deliveries with its airstrip to be upgraded under Round 4 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme.

The funding is part of the Australian Government's announcement in the 2015-16 Budget of \$33.7 million over four years to fund upgrades for remote community airstrips across Australia.

This upgrade will ensure residents have continued access to essential health care services including emergency medical evacuations as well as improved access to work and education opportunities.

Given smaller aircraft often service these communities, simple measures such as providing a smooth runway or keeping wildlife away can make all the difference towards a safe landing.



photo: Royal Flying Doctor Service

Royal Flying Doctor Service Aircraft at the Queenstown Airstrip

The \$7,500 upgrade will provide significant benefit for the local community. The funding will be used to install lighting, giving pilots and other users of the airport improved visibility, particularly during poor weather and at night.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service was the applicant for this Queenstown funding, highlighting the importance of the upgrade to ensure residents of the region have access to essential health services.

The programme is part of the Federal Government's commitment to investing in local communities across Tasmania.

For more information please visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/regional/raug.aspx

Launceston Museum receives \$20,000 for National Science Week

The Turnbull Liberal Government recently announced funding of \$20,000 to allow the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), to deliver 'Science Open Season' as part of National Science Week.

Running from 12-20 August, 'Science Open Season' will involve a programme of 17 events over seven days, including exhibitions, workshops, expo/open day presentations and activities relating to the 2017 schools theme of *Future Earth*.



WOMEN IN THE LIBERAL PARTY

In February this year, more than 90 members of the Liberal party met at the Town Hall in Launceston to discuss female representation both in Parliament and across the party more broadly.



Liberal Party Members listen to Senator Linda Reynolds at the Women in Parliament Roundtable, Feb 2017

Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman is spearheading an initiative to see women make up 50% of the party's representation in state politics by 2022. The roundtable offered the first key step in achieving this goal.

Speakers at the event included Federal Member for Boothby (SA), Nicolle Flint MP who in 2015 co-authored a Menzies report titled "Gender and Politics". Ms Flint

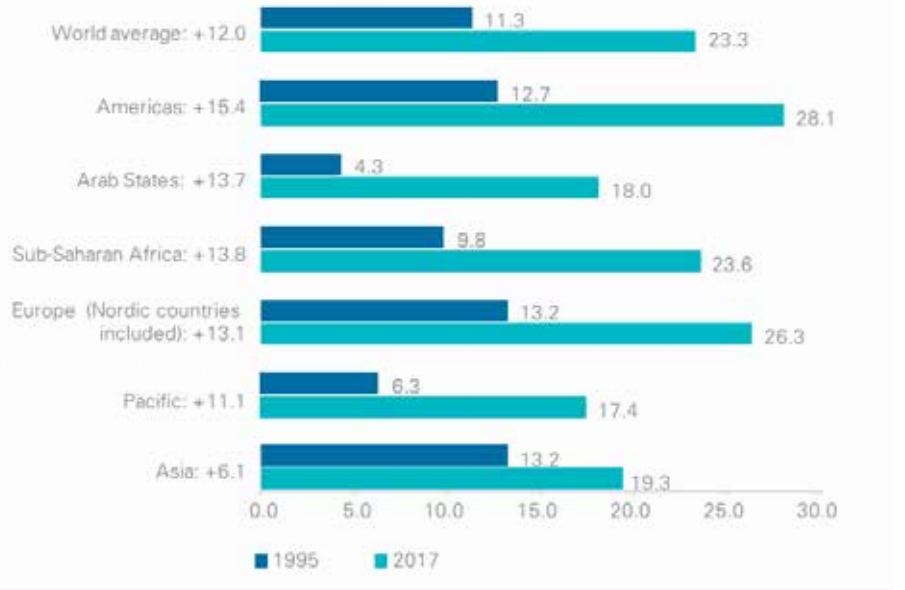
gave a constructive speech on the lack of women in Parliament at both state and federal levels and what the party can do to overcome these challenges. Western Australian Senator Linda Reynolds and Federal Liberal Women's Council President Ms Robyn Nolan also gave excellent speeches on the issue.

All attendees had the opportunity to put forward their views on what they believe are the obstacles of running for Parliament and present solutions. The feedback was particularly informative and with the announcement of a Working Group to tackle the issue – headed

by senior young Liberal Claire Chandler – the party is on its way to making the 2022 goal possible.

World and regional averages of women in parliaments, 1995 and 2017

Situation in July 1995 and January 2017, both houses combined. Regional ranking in the order of the percentage point change.



Source: IPU Women in Parliament: the year in progress



Download this Women in Politics poster from my website www.stephenparry.com.au

The updated Menzies Report on Politics and Gender can be found here www.menziesrc.org/images/PDF/MRC_Gender_Politics_Report_2017_Update_web.pdf

Figure 3: Percentage of women in all Australian parliaments by major party, 1994–2015



SUPPORT FOR YOUTH JOBS IN TASMANIA

Tasmanian businesses are being encouraged to help a young person into a job, while also growing their business.

Under the Turnbull Government's Youth Jobs PaTH programme, businesses that take on an intern will receive an upfront payment of \$1,000, and young people will receive an incentive payment of \$200 per fortnight on top of their income support payment.



Funded through the Turnbull Government's \$855 million Youth Employment Package, the programme is designed for businesses wanting to grow and

for young people between the ages 15-24 who need an opportunity to gain experience and show what they have to offer.

REVITALISING EDUCATION IN TASMANIA

The Federal Government is committed to giving Tasmanians the opportunities they need to succeed, no matter where they live or what their circumstances.

As part of this commitment, a comprehensive review will be undertaken to assess what will best increase positive outcomes for regional, rural and remote students not just at school, but also as they go on to further study, training and employment.

The review will hear stories and feedback about regional and rural education from across the country with educators, students, families, employers and the local community all invited to have their say. Their

input and suggestions will help shape the future of education in regional and rural Australia.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce said the review would be critical in addressing the key barriers and challenges that impact on the educational outcomes of regional, rural and remote students.

"There's a clear disparity between education in the bush and the city – this seeks to address the gap of achievement, aspiration and access to higher education faced by regional students.

"That's why we are going out to the edges, to hear from our regional communities in order to find solutions to build the skills of regional Australians to allow our youth better jobs and better opportunities no matter where they live."

Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon

Birmingham said the independent review into regional, rural and remote education would be led by Emeritus Professor John Halsey of Flinders University.

Minister Birmingham said regional education needed to be looked at as a "complete puzzle" and not as separate school, higher education and training sectors.

"This review will look at education from school entry to job success and how we can improve results for rural and regional people," Minister Birmingham said.

"Approximately one third of regional and remote students do not complete Year 12 or an equivalent unit of study and that number rises to almost two thirds of very remote students."

The review will be conducted in consultation with key stakeholders and will benefit country people and country communities.

For more information on how to be involved please visit:
www.education.gov.au/independent-review-regional-rural-and-remote-education

PROTECTING THE WORLD'S POLAR REGIONS



The Federal Government recently announced amendments to maritime legislation that will further protect the planet's polar regions from the impact of ship pollution.

Australia has a strong national interest in Antarctica, with responsibilities for a large portion of the Southern Ocean, including the safety of shipping and the environmental protection of Antarctic waters.

Through the International Maritime Organisation, Australia has been working closely with other countries, the shipping industry and environmental groups to develop the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters, called the 'Polar Code'.

The Government is amending the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983*, to align our domestic law with our international obligations. This will allow Australia to play its part in

protecting the world's most delicate geographical locations.

Specifically, the amendments will apply to the Antarctic Area and Arctic waters and will have a significant effect on improving shipping practices, reducing marine pollution, and ensuring Australia meets its international obligations.

The amendments passed the lower house on 28 March 2017. At time of print, a second reading had been moved in the Senate.

OLDER AUSTRALIANS TO HAVE MORE SAY IN DELIVERY OF HOME CARE SERVICES

In February, the Federal Government launched *Increasing Choice in Home Care*. This major reform will give consumers more choice in care services, meaning services such as personal care, nursing and social support can be tailored to suit individual needs.

The reforms - benefiting more than 100,000 consumers over the next year - will improve the way services are delivered to older people in their homes, allowing older Australians to direct funding to their provider of choice who can meet their particular needs. If these needs are not being met, consumers now have the flexibility to change providers more easily.



A range of consumer information to help older people make an informed choice is available on the My Aged Care website

www.myagedcare.gov.au

Consumers can also call 1800 200 422 to talk to someone about these changes.

Other important changes in Increasing Choice in Home Care are:

- Funding for home care is portable. For example, if a person living in Melbourne decides to move to Launceston to be closer to their family, the home care package will be portable to move interstate.
- If consumers change their provider, any unspent funds in the account – less any account fees – will go with them to a new home care provider.
- Processes to become an approved provider will be streamlined, however, new providers will continue to be required to demonstrate their suitability and meet quality standards.

BEEHIVES INSTALLED AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Australian Parliament House (APH) will soon play a part in improving local biodiversity with the installation of beehives in the native landscape.

In July 2014, the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport produced its report into the 'Future of the beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia'. Among other matters, the committee drew attention to the importance of bees to food security, the environment, and agriculture and horticulture industry performance.

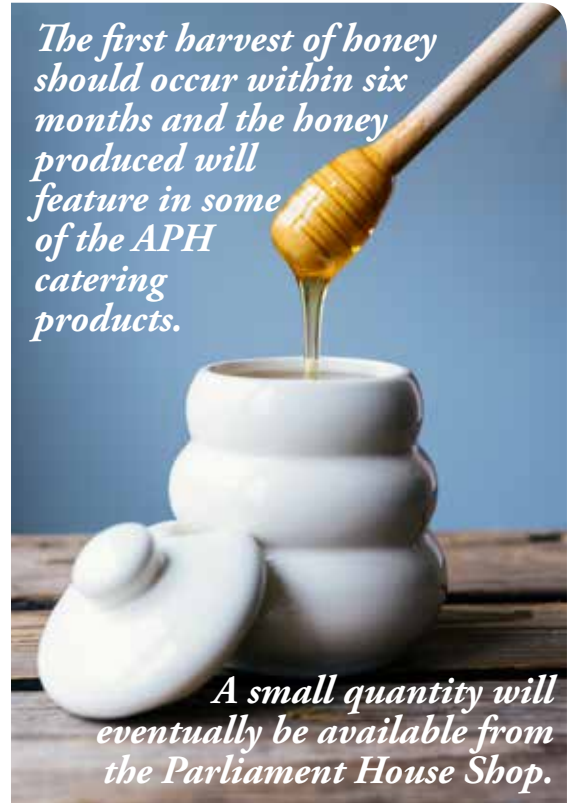
Following the committee's report, the Australian National University Apiculture Society approached the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) with a proposal to install beehives at APH aiming to

- highlight the important role of bees to food security
- raise awareness about declining bee populations globally
- show support for beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia and
- assist with ANU research into bee related issues.

DPS has been working closely with the Society and the Canberra office of Aurecon - an engineering and project management firm with urban beekeeping experience - to ensure that the hives are safe and fit for purpose.

The hives will include Australian designed award-winning 'Flow Hive' technology which allows the honey to be collected without having to disrupt the bees or open the hive.

The beehive initiative follows other national and international institutions with resident beehives including the Scottish Parliament, the White House, the parliaments of Western Australia and Queensland and Government House in Canberra. There are historical links to bees and APH, with beehives being kept in the gardens of Old Parliament House in 1976, managed by the then Member for Holt, William Yates.



IN THE SENATE

News from the Senate - 7th February to 31st March 2017

New Clerk of the Senate

The role of the Clerk of the Senate is critical to ensuring the effective functioning of one of our most important democratic institutions – the Australian Senate.

In March of this year, Dr Rosemary Laing retired as Clerk of the Senate after serving more than seven years in the role. Senate President Stephen Parry appointed Richard Pye to the role vacated by Dr Laing after a merit-based selection process and consultation with Senators across all parties.

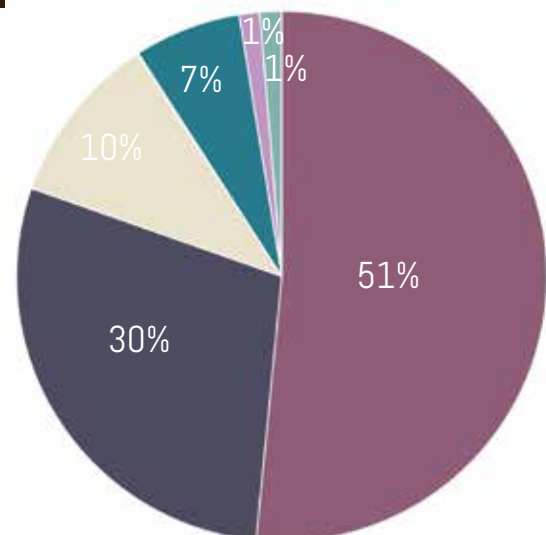
Mr Pye has extensive experience as an adviser on parliamentary matters, gained through 24 years in procedural and advisory positions, including those at senior executive levels and supporting Dr Laing as Deputy Clerk of the Senate.



The Clerk of the Senate is the principal adviser to the President, Deputy President, senators and Senate committees. The Clerk is also the custodian of Senate records and of the institutional knowledge of the Senate, encapsulated in the authoritative reference work, *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice*.

Mr Pye is only the 14th person to serve in this prestigious position. He has been appointed for a non-renewable 10-year term, in accordance with the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

Senate Statistical Summary - General - 2017 to Date



- 51% Government business
- 30% General business
- 10% Questions
- 7% Urgency/MPI
- 1% Business of the Senate
- 1% Other business

Number of sitting days	15
Average length of a sitting day	11hrs 54mins
Longest sitting day	
30 & 31 March	24hrs 11mins
Shortest sitting day	
9 February	9hrs 10mins
Hours of sitting	178hrs 25mins

How Senators vote on key legislation

Company Tax Cuts

Treasury Laws Amendment
(Enterprise Tax Plan)
Bill 2016

YES - 30

Coalition
One Nation
Nick Xenophon Team
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

NO - 27

Labor
Australian Greens
Jacqui Lambie Network

Child Care Reforms

Family Assistance
Legislation Amendment
(Jobs for Families Child
Care Package)
Bill 2016

YES - 30

Coalition
One Nation
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party
Nick Xenophon Team

NO - 28

Australian Greens
Labor

Welfare Savings Measure

Social Services
Legislation Amendment
Bill 2017

YES - 34

Coalition
Australian Conservatives
One Nation
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party
Nick Xenophon Team
Liberal Democrats

NO - 31

Labor
Australian Greens
Jacqui Lambie Network

Statistical Summary - Legislation - 2017 to date

Introduced in the Senate

government bills	4
private senator's bills	9

Received from the House of Representatives

government bills	47
private member's bills	0

Passed in the Senate 39

Bills referred to committees 22

The Numbers

Coalition (government)	29
Labor	26
Australian Greens	9
One Nation	4
Nick Xenophon Team	3
Liberal Democrats	1
Jacqui Lambie Network	1
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party	1
Australian Conservatives	1

As of Wednesday 5 April, the High Court has ruled that former Family First Senator Bob Day's election was invalid. It is expected a replacement South Australian Senator will be sworn in on 9 May.

THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER

Parliament House Photography Exhibition celebrates 25 years of service by David Foote, Photographer for the Australian Government Photographic Service (Auspic)

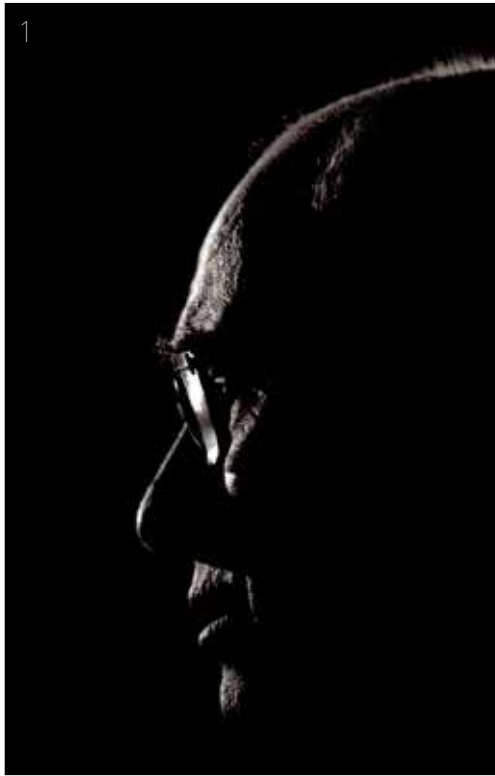
David Foote's iconic images of major world events, world leaders, royalty and Australian Prime Ministers have captured unforgettable moments in

Australian history.

For a quarter of a century, more than one and a half million photos have been captured by the lens of David and *The Official Observer* exhibition showcases fascinating and historic photographs captured in Australia and during official

visits overseas.

The exhibition is on display at Parliament House until 14 May 2017. David was kind enough to share some of his favourite images with Senator Parry for this edition of *Dialogue*.



1) Profile photo of John Howard - New York 2002

2) Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge - Placing poppies on the memorial wall, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, April 2014

3) John Howard and President Bush - Sydney Harbour, APEC 2007

EXHIBITION
ON DISPLAY AT
PARLIAMENT
HOUSE UNTIL
14 MAY 2017.

Out & About



Speaker of the House Tony Smith MP and President of the Senate Senator Stephen Parry with Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Peter Szijarto. (February 16, 2017.)



Senator Parry inspects Yumbah Bicheno Abalone farm.



President Parry and Speaker Smith met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his five day visit to Australia in March. The visit focussed on strengthening China's economic ties with Australia. (March 23, 2017.)



With Bicheno Surf Life Saving Club President and member of the Bicheno Community Development Association President Michael Symons during a visit to the surf lifesaving club.



In March, President Parry met with members of the CPA UK Parliamentary Delegation during their trip to Parliament House. L-R: Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP; Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP; Yvonne Fovargue MP; Senator Stephen Parry; The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Taylor of Bolton; Ian Liddell-Grainger MP and The Lord Balfe of Dulwich. (March 20, 2017.)



Senator Parry tours Wallaroo Contracting, Bicheno.

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR AUSTRALIA'S BEST FISH AND CHIPS

There is no doubt Tasmania produces world-class seafood and now the state has the chance to prove what we all know – the best fish and chips are found right here.

In March, the Federal Government launched the *2017 Australian Fish and Chips Awards*. The awards are coordinated by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) in partnership with state and territory fishing industry councils.

There are two categories: *People's Choice* and *The National Fish and Chip Award*. Entries will be rated on taste, service, choice, information and labelling. The winner will be announced on 28 September 2017 at the National Seafood Industry Awards in Sydney.

To vote for your favourite fish and chip shop in Tasmania, visit

www.fishandchipsawards.com.au

As of early April, Doo-Lishus from Eaglehawk Neck is leading the votes in the state!

Your Tasmanian Liberal Senate Team



Front left to right: Senators Stephen Parry, Jonathon Duniam, David Bushby and Eric Abetz

www.stephenparry.com.au