



canada in australia

By Permission of His Excellency.
FOR THE BENEFIT OF J. BUTLER
AND W. BRYANT.

At the THEATRE, SYDNEY

On Saturday, July 30, 1795. will be Performed

JANE SHORE.

Haltings	I. Sparrow.
Belmour	R. Evans
Cateby	H. Lavell
Ratcliffe	L. Jones.
Glosser	W. Chapman.
And Shore	H. Green.
Alicia	Mrs. Davis.
And Jane Shore	Mrs. Greville.

After the Play

The Wapping Landlady.

Sailors	Hoghes and Evans.
Mother Doublechalk	W. Fokes.

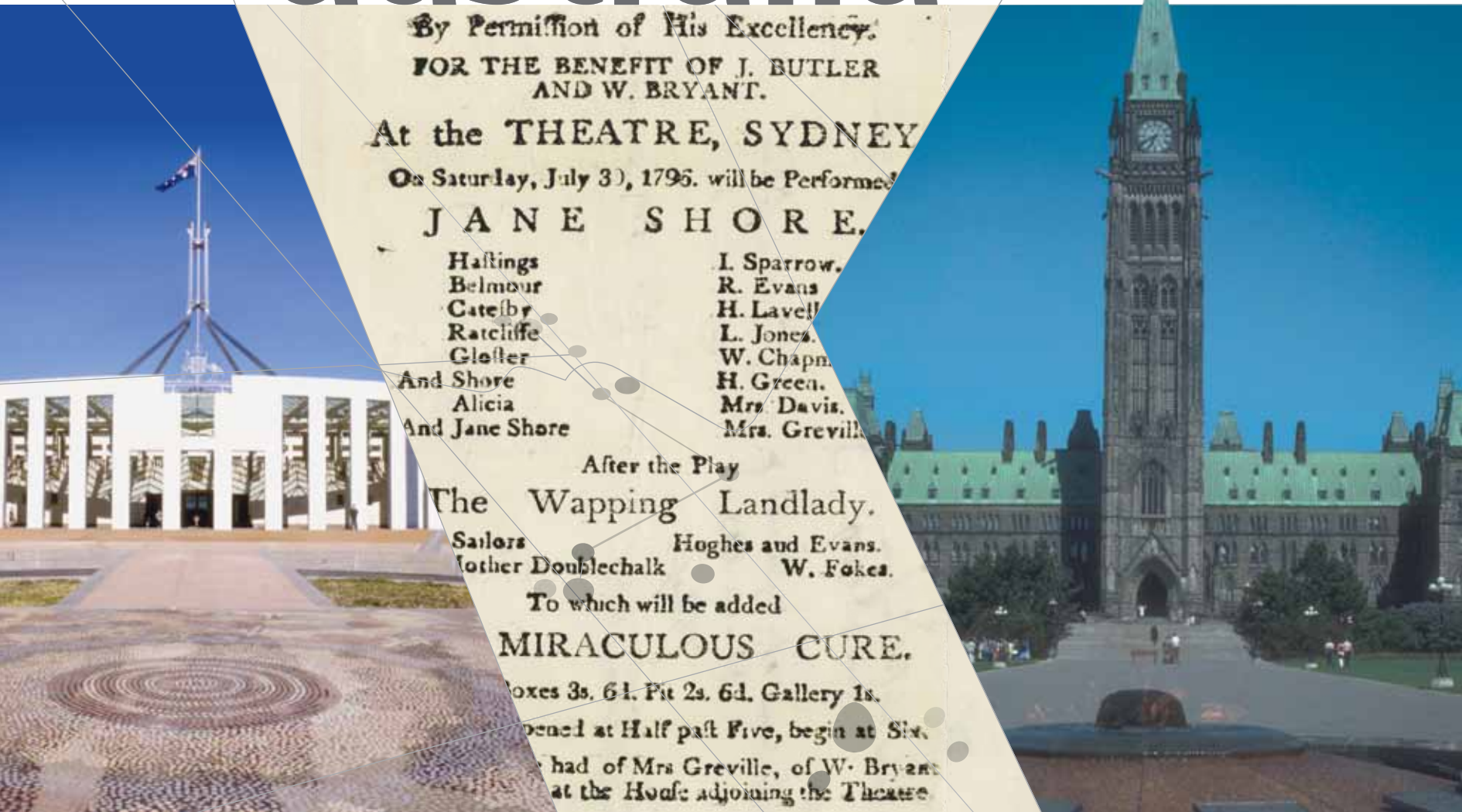
To which will be added

MIRACULOUS CURE.

Boxes 3s. 6d. Pit 2s. 6d. Gallery 1s.

opened at Half past Five, begin at Six.

had of Mrs Greville, of W. Bryant
at the House adjoining the Theatre.



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Introduction

The 70th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Canada and Australia will be celebrated at the end of 2009. In September 1939, on the brink of World War II, the need for closer relations between members of the Commonwealth became a pressing issue. Canada and Australia quickly agreed to make diplomatic relations official early in the war through the appointment of High Commissioners. On September 11 1939, Canada announced the appointment of its first High Commissioner to Australia, and Australia reciprocated the next day.

By the end of the year both governments had announced their appointments and Charles Burchell became Canada's first High Commissioner to Australia, while Major-General the Honourable Sir William Glasgow, a former Australian Senator, was appointed as High Commissioner for Australia in Canada.

While our two countries lie on opposite sides of the globe, we share a similar past and have developed along remarkably parallel paths. For over a century, we have worked side by side, in war and peace, from the trenches of Passchendaele to the establishment of the United Nations, from the creation of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to peace-keeping in East Timor and re-building Afghanistan. With so much in common in international co-operation and defence, commerce and politics, education and culture, we come together naturally and enjoy close ties and an enduring friendship.



The bilateral relationship is marked by multiple channels and contacts at many levels. It includes co-operation in multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) and the Commonwealth, and wide-ranging dialogue and regular consultation between government officials and academics on issues as varied as tax policy, justice, health, defence, security and intelligence, research and innovation, ageing, public sector reform, federalism, e-government and immigration.

There are many examples of the concrete ties that link our countries. For example, two-way trade, investment and tourism remain strong, and our cultural, academic and student exchanges are flourishing. While we may be competitors in the marketplace, Canadian companies increasingly see Australia as the perfect springboard for doing business in Asia, just as Australian firms view Canada as the best gateway to the large North American market.

Every year thousands of young Canadians and Australians are discovering the delights of travelling and working in both countries, as a result of our highly successful working holiday programs which have been expanded to allow even more opportunities. Thanks to a unique consular sharing agreement, Australians and Canadians can seek assistance from each other's diplomatic missions in some 40 countries abroad.

Reflecting the close links between our countries, in 2007, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, made an official visit to Australia, following the APEC meeting held in Sydney

that year. The highlight of Prime Minister Harper's visit was his address to a joint sitting of the Parliament of Australia on September 11, 2007. Coincidentally, this was the 68th anniversary of the Canadian Government's appointment of its first High Commissioner to Australia.

Following the address to Parliament, at a luncheon hosted by the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard, Prime Minister Harper presented the Australian people with an historic document – a theatre playbill – produced in Sydney in 1796. *The Playbill* is a gift of great significance as it is Australia's earliest surviving printed document, and the earliest known advertisement for a theatrical performance in Australia.

Canada and Australia have a history of exchanging gifts. This includes Canada's gift of a magnificent pavement mosaic – Speakers Square – which celebrates Australia's 2001 Centenary of Federation. Several decades earlier during Canada's Centennial in 1967, the Australian Government presented the Canadian people with two outstanding oil paintings by one of Australia's finest artists, Sir William Dobell.

This tradition of exchanging gifts reflects the warm relationship that has developed over the years and which continues today. In fact, Canadian gifts can be found throughout Australia, from convict memorials in Hobart and Sydney to a 39m flagpole in Canberra and an Inuit *Inukshuk* in Brisbane.



The Canadian High Commission in Canberra, the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney and the Honorary Consulates in Perth and Melbourne are proud to be associated with these gifts and the long-standing friendship between Canada and Australia that they represent.

This publication, which has been printed as a second edition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Canada and Australia, invites you to learn more about Canada's presence in Australia and the special connection between our countries. We thank our partners without whose generous support, this publication would not have been possible.



Canada and Australia, a shared history

Canada and Australia, Shared History

Though a world apart, Canada and Australia have much in common. As countries they share not only an important heritage through the British connection, but also strong historical links including the many personalities and events that have shaped them.

One of the oldest connections is Captain James Cook, whose navigational experience in the Gulf of St Lawrence on Canada's east coast led not only to his survey of Australia's east coast, in 1770, but also the Pacific Coast of Canada in 1778.

Transportation of Canadian Convicts 1840

One of the most interesting historical links that led ultimately to the establishment of responsible government in both countries was the ill-fated Rebellions of 1837-1838 and the transportation of two groups of Canadian convicts.

The rebels, one group from Upper Canada (English speaking) and the others from Lower Canada (French speaking) agitated for representative government against the domination of the unelected British Legislative Councils. Both rebellions were quashed and many of the participants transported to Australia as convicts. Ninety-two followers of William Lyon Mackenzie, in Upper Canada, were sent to the harsh penal colony in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania).

Today, two monuments in Hobart commemorate the landing of the Canadian exiles in Van Diemen's Land.

The first monument was unveiled in 1970, and the text on it reads:

Canadian Exiles of 1840

Near this spot in Sandy Bay ninety-two English speaking exiles from the uprising of 1837-1838 in Upper Canada were incarcerated in 1840 before being removed to labour on the Hobart to Launceston Road. Subsequently they were released on ticket-of-leave and eventually pardoned to return to Canada.

Fifty-eight French speaking prisoners from the uprising in Lower Canada were similarly exiled to the Parramatta River area of New South Wales.

Measures taken as a result of the uprisings in Upper and Lower Canada represented significant steps in the evolution of responsible government and parliamentary democracy in Canada and Australia.

This plaque was unveiled on September 30, 1970, by The Honourable Douglas Harkness, P.C., M.P., former Minister of National Defence of Canada, to mark the 130th anniversary of the landing of the Canadian exiles in Van Diemen's Land and to commemorate the sacrifices made by many Canadians and Australians in the evolution of self-governing, equal and free nations within the Commonwealth of Nations.

The second monument, which was unveiled in 1995, was designed by Bob Jennings of the University of Tasmania Centre for the Arts.

The text on the monument in Prince's Park, Battery Point, reads:

This monument honours the memory of 92 exiles transported from Canada to Van Diemen's Land in 1840. Their struggle was a significant factor in the evolution of responsible government in Canada and Australia.



Unveiled by Canadian High Commissioner Brian Schumacher on the 12th of December 1995 during the Centenary of official Canada-Australia trade relations.

At the same time, 58 followers of the rebel leader, Louis-Joseph Papineau, from French-speaking Lower Canada, were sentenced to transportation to Longbottom on the Parramatta River in Sydney. In 1970, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, unveiled a monument in Cabarita Park commemorating the landing of the Canadian exiles in Australia.

The text on the Cabarita Park monument reads:

Canadian Exiles of 1840

Near this spot in Longbottom stockade fifty-eight French-speaking Canadian prisoners from the uprising of 1837-1838 in Lower Canada were incarcerated from March 11, 1840 to November 1842 before being released on ticket-of-leave and eventually pardoned to return to Canada. Their sojourn in the Parramatta River area is recalled by the names of Exile Bay, France Bay and Canada Bay.

Ninety-two English-speaking prisoners captured in Upper Canada in 1838 were similarly exiled in Van Diemen's Land.

Measures taken as a result of the uprisings in Lower and Upper Canada represented significant steps in the evolution of responsible government and parliamentary democracy in Canada and Australia.

This plaque was unveiled on May 19, 1970 by The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to mark the 130th anniversary of the landing of the Canadian exiles in Australia and to commemorate the sacrifices made by many Canadians and Australians in the evolution of self-government, equal and free nations within the Commonwealth of Nations.



Another small monument is located in the grounds of the Victoria Barracks in Sydney. It was dedicated during Australia's Bicentenary in 1988, and acknowledges the *Patriotes'* association with the construction of the barracks in 1840.

The plaque reads:

In memory of the Canadian *Patriotes* exiled in New South Wales from 1840-1844, a number of whom assisted in the construction of Victoria Barracks.

Unveiled by The Honourable Don Mazankowski, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, July 6, 1988.

The 1837-1838 Rebellions led the British Government of the day ultimately to adopt remedial measures leading to the evolution of responsible government and parliamentary democracy in Canada. These principles were incorporated in both countries' constitutions, leading to the establishment of Canada's Confederation in 1867, and Australia's Federation in 1901.

A record of this remarkable colonial exploit was written by François-Maurice Lepailleur, whose diary of the events, published as *Land of a Thousand Sorrows*, is held in the collection of the National Library of Australia.

The Eureka Rebellion 1854

The Eureka rebellion followed years of discontent on the Victorian goldfields and has come to be regarded as a “milestone in Australian democracy”. The Eureka flag, also known as the Southern Cross, is closely associated with this struggle for democracy. It is generally thought that a Canadian digger from Ontario, Captain Ross, designed the flag and commissioned miners’ wives to sew it. Along with other Canadians, Ross came to Ballarat seeking gold and adventure in the early 1850s. Although the uprising was put down quickly – the known death toll was five soldiers and 22 miners – important social changes and political improvements arose out of the events at Eureka that influenced the course of Australia’s political history.

Another noteworthy Canadian was the 20-year-old artist from Quebec, Charles Doudiet, who helped carry the fatally injured Ross from the battlefield to a nearby hotel. His *Australian Sketchbook* contains watercolours and annotations that are among the most significant documents on Eureka. Doudiet was the only eyewitness observer on hand to record these historic events. Fifteen of his sketches, including *Swearing Allegiance to the Southern Cross*, are now on display with the flag in the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery.

This historic connection to Canada is reflected in the name given to the Ballarat suburb of *Canadian*.



Chaffey Brothers Pioneer First Irrigation Colony in Australia 1887

In 1887, two Canadian brothers, George and William Benjamin (W.B.) Chaffey who were born in Brockville, Ontario, signed an agreement with the Victorian Government that would establish the first great Australian irrigation colony in the Murray Valley. The *Chaffey Agreement* founded the irrigation settlement at Mildura and later was extended to include irrigation colonies at Renmark in South Australia.

The Chaffey brothers established their reputations as successful irrigation engineers in California in 1871 where they launched model colonizing schemes. Their efforts were recognized by Alfred Deakin, a Victorian state parliamentarian and later Prime Minister of Australia, who was impressed by their ability to irrigate once arid regions of the country and convinced them to come to Australia.

A prominent statue honouring W.B. Chaffey and his brother George was erected on Deakin Avenue, Mildura, with the inscription, “*He laboured for the common good*”.

Canada and Australia Relations Begin with Trade 1895

In January 1895 when John Short Larke disembarked from the *Warimoo* at Sydney Harbour to take up his assignment in Australia, he became the first emissary appointed by the Government of Canada to any country in the world.

Larke's instructions included: "to collect information both on the general trading requirements in Australia and specific trade opportunities" and "to promote trade between Canada and Australia in every possible way".

His efforts stimulated trade in a wide range of goods including textiles, carriage wheels and cereals. Canadian exports increased ten-fold during his time. Larke continued to promote Canadian trade in Sydney until just before he died in 1910. His descendants are still doing business in Australia.

He also played a significant role in the establishment of the Pacific cable which helped bridge the vast ocean between Canada and Australia. Larke is recognised for his efforts in improving shipping services between the two countries.

Diplomatic Relations Established 1939

Although the first known Canadian arrived in Australia from Montreal in 1790, official relations were not established until the advent of World War II.



In September 1939, with the outbreak of war in Europe, Canada and Australia agreed to establish full diplomatic relations and despatched envoys to each other's countries.

Canada was the first country apart from the United Kingdom to establish a diplomatic mission in Canberra during World War II. Its first envoy, Charles J. Burchell, arrived in May 1941 after having had a difficult time travelling to Australia during the war.

In June 1940, the mission established its first offices in Casey House, State Circle, which was a former residence of the Honourable Richard Casey, Australian Treasurer and later Minister for External Affairs, before he became Lord Casey and Governor-General of Australia.

High Commissioner's Official Residence 1950

The Official Residence located at 32 Mugga Way, Red Hill, was built in 1929. It was purchased by the Government of Canada in 1950 as a residence for the Canadian High Commissioner.

The residence has historic significance and is listed within the Red Hill Conservation Area in the Register of the National Estate.

The Red Hill Conservation Area is one of the most important areas of early housing in Canberra. It was planned by Sir John Sulman in 1924 within the road layout in Walter Burley Griffin's Official Plan of Canberra.

The area consists of large private gardens and majestic tree-lined streets that combine to form a harmonious and beautiful residential area reflecting the influence of the Garden City movement.

For more than half a century, the residence has been an historic and gracious setting for bringing together Canadians and Australians. From prime ministers to poets, the Mugga Way residence, surrounded by its majestic Australian gum trees, has welcomed all who gathered there to promote better understanding between the two countries.

Opening of the Chancery of the Canadian High Commission 1964

The new Chancery of the Canadian High Commission on Commonwealth Avenue was officially opened on January 30, 1964 by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies.

The building, with its simple, classic lines, was designed by Mathers and Haldenby, a well known firm of Canadian architects. The roof is sheathed in copper and the eaves, designed to give a wide overhang, are made of Canadian red cedar. Canadian timbers were used extensively throughout the building, including birch, rock maple and pine.

A plaque in the foyer of the Chancery reads:

To Commemorate the Official Opening of the Chancery of the Canadian High Commission by the Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies, KT, CH, QC, MP Prime Minister of Australia Canberra, January 30, 1964

During 1994, the Chancery was extended from its original building design to include a second wing at the rear of the building. The new extension was officially opened by the Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), on August 4, 1994.





Gifts from Canada to Australia 1927-2008

Gifts from Canada to Australia 1927-2008

Canada and Australia have a tradition of exchanging gifts to mark significant events in their history. In Canberra, many of these gifts mark the establishment of the Australian Parliament and the development of Canberra as the nation's capital city.

1. The Senate President's Chair 1927 and 1988

The Canadian Senate presented the first President's Chair to the Australian Senate in 1927 when the old Parliament House was opened in Canberra. The high-backed chair on which the President of the Senate sat is made of Canadian maple and can be seen today in the Senate Chamber of Old Parliament House.

The chair was first used by the President of the Senate in October 1927. During that sitting, a motion conveying the thanks of the Senate to the Canadian Government was moved by Senator the Honourable Sir William Glasgow. He led the Australian delegation to a conference of the Empire Parliamentary Association in Ottawa the following year and in 1940 Sir William became Australia's first High Commissioner to Canada.

When the new Parliament House was opened in May 1988, the Canadian Government once again presented the Australian Parliament with the gift of a President's Chair for the Senate Chamber. Designed by Mitchell, Giurgola and Thorpe Architects, the architects

for the new Parliament House, the chair was made out of North American cherry wood by the Canadian firm, Craftswood Products, in Scarborough, Ontario.

The chair has a brass plaque with the inscription:

This chair is a gift of the Canadian Senate to the Australian Senate, 1988.





2. Parliament House Gardens 1933 and Rose Gardens 2004

In 1933, the Canadian Government presented the gift of four silver maple trees (*Acer saccharinum*) for planting in the new gardens established by the Clerk of the Senate, Robert Broinowski, for the old Parliament House, opened in 1927.

In 1937, Canada also presented to Australia a shipment of five different roses, including the cultivars *Huron* and *Iroquois*, from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. In return, Broinowski sent Australian roses for planting in the gardens of the Canadian Parliament Buildings.

In 2004, the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens were established to re-create the original design of the gardens planted in the 1930s. The Canadian High Commission was invited to sponsor a rose bed in one of the four re-created rose gardens, the Ladies Garden on the House of Representatives side. The rose bed is planted with a white climbing rose – *Papa Meiland* – and a miniature red daisy-like rose – *Scarlet Blaze* – to reflect the colours of the Canadian flag.

A plaque located at the front of the rose bed reads:

For the people of Australia from the High Commission of Canada

3. Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne 1954

To mark the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, 100 trees were planted in the gardens of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Each was dedicated in remembrance of units, including Canadians, who had fought in the war. In the 1950s some of these trees were re-planted due to construction work.

On July 1, 1954, the Canadian Consul-General, Roy Blake, planted a red maple tree (*Acer rubrum*) and placed a small plaque in the garden.

4. Canadian Flagpole at Regatta Point 1955

The Canadian Flagpole is located on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin at Regatta Point. It was given to Australia in 1955 by the Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, on behalf of the Government of Canada. Mr Howe, who announced the gift during a visit to Canberra, was a senior minister in the government of Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent.

The flagpole is from a single spar of Douglas Fir logged from a forest in the Canadian province of British Columbia.

Due to the considerable technical challenges of transporting the pole from Canada to Australia by sea and then overland by rail to Canberra, the flagpole was not installed until November 1957.

The flagpole is buried more than three metres underground and including this below-ground length, is a total of more than 39 metres in height. Each year on July 1, Canada's national day, the Canadian flag with its distinctive red maple leaf can be seen flying from the flagpole.

There are two plaques at the base of the flagpole with the following inscriptions:

(Front) Symbolic of the ties which unite the peoples of Australia and Canada, this flagpole was presented to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia by the Government of Canada and the Canadian timber industry. 1957

(Back) This flagpole was presented by the Government of Canada and the Canadian timber industry to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia as a constant reminder of the ties which unite the peoples of Australia and Canada.

It was officially handed over on the 20th November, 1957, to the Honourable Allen Fairhall, Minister of State for the Interior and for Works, representing the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, by His Excellency, Mr T. W. L. MacDermot, High Commissioner for Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The pole, a single spar of Douglas Fir logged from a forest in British Columbia, is 128 feet in height although the first 10 feet are below ground level.





5. Kwakwaka'wakw Totem Pole Victoria Park Sydney 1964

In September 1964, the Government of Canada in association with the Canadian West Coast Timber Trade presented a six-metre high totem pole to the people of Sydney on the occasion of National Timber Week.

The totem pole, which is located in Victoria Park near the intersection of City Road and Broadway not far from the University of Sydney, was presented to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, the Honourable H. F. Jensen on September 17, 1964.

The totem pole was carved by Simon Charlie, a Quamishan man of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation from Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

6. Canadian Timber Foyer Australian National University 1968

The foyer of the ANU Department of Forestry features western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) panelling donated by the people of Canada and the British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers.

An interesting aspect of the foyer are the two clear wall panels that display Canadian leaves and fruits. The leaves were collected from Canadian trees and embedded into resin between two clear plastic sheets by Dr Charles Hamilton, who retired from the department in 1968.

A large bronze maple leaf and the word *Canada* underneath can be seen on the far wall of the foyer between the two clear panels. A small plaque near the entrance reads:

[Western red cedar panelling donated by the people of Canada and the British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers.](#)

The building includes timber gifts from forestry institutions and private companies all over the world and was opened by His Royal Highness Prince Phillip on May 16, 1968.

7. Canadian Maple Planted by Former Prime Minister 1969

In April 1969, the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968, planted a Canadian maple tree (*Acer saccharinum fastigiata*) near the main entrance of the Chancery. A plaque marks his visit to Canberra:

[This tree was planted by Right Honourable Lester Bowles Pearson P.C., O.B.E., M.A., LL.D. Secretary of State for External Affairs 1948 – 1957](#)

[Prime Minister of Canada
1963-1968](#)

[April 1969
Canadian Maple
Acer Saccharinum Fastigiata](#)

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1956, Pearson is fondly remembered by Canadians as the prime minister responsible for the adoption of the distinctive Canadian maple leaf flag.

During the 1950s, Lester B. Pearson and Australia's Richard Casey, both external affairs ministers, shared much in terms of experience, attitudes and sensibilities, and came to develop a close personal and professional relationship.

8. Prime Ministers' Visits

In 1943, the Right Honourable Robert (later Sir Robert) Menzies became the first Australian Prime Minister to visit Canada following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1944, this was followed by a visit to Canada by the Right Honourable John Curtin, who was the first Australian Prime Minister to address both Houses of the Canadian Parliament.

Some 17 years later, in 1958, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker was the first Canadian Prime Minister to visit Australia. On a week-long visit to Australia, the Prime Minister visited Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, before departing for New Zealand.

This visit was followed, in May 1970, by the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Trudeau. Following a brief visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Prime Minister Trudeau travelled to Canberra and Sydney as part of a five-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific. While in Canberra, he met with the Prime



Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable John Gorton and had discussions with the Cabinet.

These visits led to greater public recognition of mutual interests and to increased contact between the countries, especially in trade and technology.

A plaque commemorating Prime Minister Trudeau's visit can be found beside the Canadian maple tree (*Acer saccharinum fastigiata*) he planted in the Chancery grounds.

This tree was planted by The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
May 18, 1970

Canadian Maple
Acer Saccharinum Fastigiata

Nearby is the commemorative plaque and tree planted by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada from 1993 to 2003, whose visit in 1995 marked the centennial of Canada-Australia trade relations.

This tree was planted by The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien,
Prime Minister of Canada,
November 15, 1995

Canadian Maple
"Autumn Blaze"

In September 2000, Madame Aline Chrétien visited Australia as the Government of Canada's representative at the opening of the Sydney Olympic Games. Prime Minister Chrétien also made another visit in March 2002 to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held at Coolum, Queensland.

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honorable John Howard, made an official visit to Canada in May 2006, where he met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa and discussed key issues of interest to both countries, including international security, international trade negotiations, climate change and energy security.

In September 2007, during his bilateral visit, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, became the first Canadian Prime Minister to address a joint sitting of the Parliament of Australia. During his visit the Prime Minister planted a Canadian maple tree in the Chancery grounds.

A commemorative plaque reads:

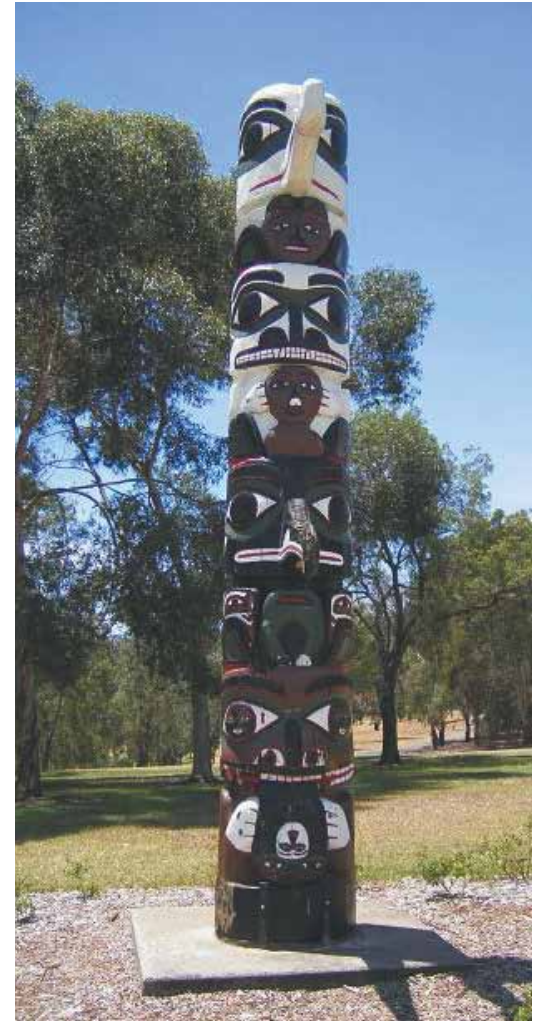
This tree was planted by the
Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
September 11, 2007

Canadian Maple
Acer rubrum
October Glory

9. Tsimshian Totem Pole Bonython Park Adelaide 1970

On November 16, 1970, the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia presented a Tsimshian totem pole to the Timber Development Association of South Australia, which was accepted on behalf of the association by the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide, Mr R.F. Porter.

The pole, which stands in Bonython Park, was carved in Western red cedar by William Jeffrey, one of the leading carvers of the Tsimshian First Nation from Prince Rupert, British Columbia. William Jeffrey was the Head Chief of the Gitwilgywat Band and the totem pole includes two of the four crests – the eagle and the raven – which are common to the Coastal Tsimshian peoples.



10. Haida Totem Pole Canberra 1988

One of the features of the Chancery area is the 6.5m Canadian totem pole near the main entrance. The pole is an example of Haida art and is carved from a single red cedar log by the well-known Canadian artist Clarence Mills.

Mills was born in 1959 in the Queen Charlotte Islands off the coast of the western Canadian province of British Columbia.

The pole took more than 600 hours to carve and was one of two totem poles that were carved for the Canadian Pavilion at the 1988 Expo held in Brisbane. Mills was assisted by Glen Wood, a Gitksan carver from the Hazelton area of British Columbia.

The totem pole represents members of the artist's family, in particular his grandfather, Chief Skedans, of the Eagle Clan. At the top of the pole is a representation of his grandmother, Na-nai. The family crest includes the grizzly bear, the raven and the moon, all of which are depicted.

A plaque at the foot of the totem pole reads:

This totem pole was carved during World Expo' 88 by Clarence Mills, a Haida Indian from the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The carvings on the pole relate to Chief Skedans, one of the last survivors of the village of Skedans and grandfather of the carver. The chief is shown in front of the grizzly bear, his family's main crest. Above the bear a Haida moon, another of the chief's crests, can be seen and above that stands the raven with his long beak. Between the ears of the raven is the chief's wife. The wife and daughters of the chief wore an ornament inserted in their lower lip and this is illustrated in the representation of the chief's wife on the pole.

The second totem pole carved for the Canadian Government Pavilion at Expo 88 was by Richard Hunt, of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It was given to the Australian Museum, Sydney in exchange for two late 19th century totem poles from Cape Mudge, off the coast of British Columbia.

Richard Hunt comes from a large family of artists and is the third Hunt to be the chief carver at the Provincial Museum in Victoria, Canada.





11. House of Representatives Table for the New Parliament House 1988

In 1988, Australia's Bicentenary, the Canadian Government presented the Table of the House to the new Parliament House, bearing the inscription:

This table is a gift of the Canadian House of Commons to the Australian House of Representatives, 1988.

Initially designed by Mitchell, Giurgola and Thorpe Architects, the Table was refined and fabricated by Bernie Koker of Constantia Furniture in Port Augusta, South Australia. The Table is made of South Australian Grey Box timber and leather in a soft eucalyptus shade of green to reflect the other colours of the Chamber.

It was presented to the new Parliament House by the Honourable Steve Paproski, Deputy Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons.

12. Inuit *Inukshuk* 1988

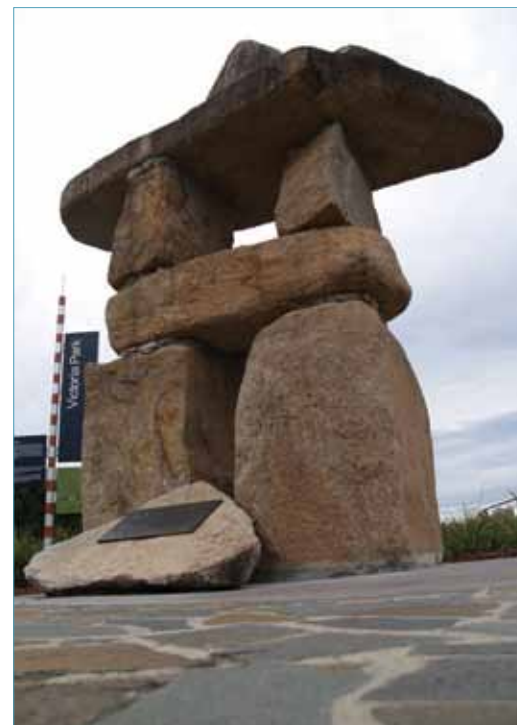
During Brisbane's World Expo 88, the people of the Northwest Territories in Canada offered their congratulations on the occasion of Australia's Bicentenary by presenting a 5m stone cairn, called an *Inukshuk*, to the Queensland Government.

After Expo 88 the *Inukshuk* was located outside the entrance of the State Library of Queensland, where it remained for more than 15 years. With extensions to the State Library it was moved to its present location on the pedestrian bridge at Victoria Park in suburban Brisbane. The *Inukshuk* was re-dedicated by High Commissioner Michael Leir on April 6, 2006.

At the 2004 unveiling ceremony the Premier of Nunavut, Paul Okalik, sent the following message of support: "It is my hope that the Brisbane *Inukshuk* will serve as a reminder of the contribution of aboriginal culture to global diversity and as a monument to the friendship between Canada and Australia."

Inuksuit (plural of *Inukshuk*, an Inuit word meaning "in the image of man") are stone figures built by the Inuit to resemble humans and can be found throughout Arctic Canada.

Originally built as directional markers on the treeless horizons to guide those who followed, and to assist in caribou hunting, the *Inukshuk* has been adopted today as a symbol to remind us of our dependence on each other and the value of strong relationships.



The *Inukshuk* was made by Alvin and Jimmy Kannak, who come from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, the Canadian territory that was previously part of the Northwest Territories.

A commemorative plaque depicts a map of North America, highlighting Canada and the Northwest Territories (including the land that is now Nunavut) to the north:

On the occasion of Expo 88, Brisbane, Queensland, the people of the Northwest Territories, Canada, offer their congratulations to the Commonwealth of Australia on its 200th anniversary of nationhood. This stone cairn Inukshuk is a symbol of friendship between the peoples of our two countries. High in the Canadian Arctic, Inuit built stone Inukshuks in the shape of humans to direct herds of migrating Caribou to hunters, and to act as landmarks for travellers.

13. *Dancing Walrus* Commemorates 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations 1999

The *Dancing Walrus* sculpture was a gift of the Canadian Government to the Australian people and parliament to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In January 2000, it was presented to the Australian Parliament by the Speaker of the Canadian Senate, the Honourable Gildas Molgat, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Gilbert Parent.

This sculpture is by the noted Inuit artist Aqjangajuk Shaa, one of the most eminent sculptors in Cape Dorset on the east coast of Arctic Canada. Born in 1937 in southern Baffin Island, Aqjangajuk has been carving since the age of 17 and his works can be found in nearly every major collection and publication of Inuit art.



Made of serpentine green soapstone with tusks of caribou bone, *Dancing Walrus* is part of the Parliament House Art Collection and is on public display in the gifts area, on the first floor of Parliament House.

There are two plaques which read:

Aqjangajuk SHAA
Born 1937
The Dancing Walrus
C 1998

Soapstone, caribou bone

Gift from people of Canada
Parliament House Art Collection

This sculpture is a gift from the people of Canada to the people of Australia in commemoration of sixty years of diplomatic relations 1939-1999

14. *Speakers Square:* A Gift for the Centenary of Federation 2001

In December 2001, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that Canada would present a gift to mark Australia's Centenary of Federation.

The Canadian Prime Minister said: *"Canada identifies closely with Australia. We are good friends who have followed similar paths in our development. Canada is delighted to mark this special Australian anniversary and is deeply honoured that our gift has been given such a prestigious setting: in the very heart of Canberra's parliamentary precinct."*

Shortly after this announcement, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable John Howard, and the High Commissioner for Canada, Jean T. Fournier, unveiled Canada's gift, *Speakers Square*, located at Commonwealth Place.

In his address, Prime Minister Howard said: *"Beautifully complementing the Canadian Government's Flagpole gift in 1957 and in clear view across the lake, Speakers Square will serve to remind us always of our connections and friendship with Canada."*

Speakers Square is a pavement mosaic that was designed by leading Canadian artist John McEwen and constructed in the province of Ontario from Canadian granite. The work depicts the night skies of the northern and southern hemispheres and represents the shared experiences of people of all nations, living together as one under the heavens.

A commemorative plaque reads:

Canada's Gift in Honour of Australia's Centenary of Federation – 2001. This work of art was presented to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia by the Government of Canada. It was unveiled on 22 July 2002.

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P., Q.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable John Howard, M.P.
Prime Minister of Australia
His Excellency Jean T. Fournier
High Commissioner for Canada to Australia

The Gathering – "We humans are like semicircles, when we join, we form a circular space." John McEwen





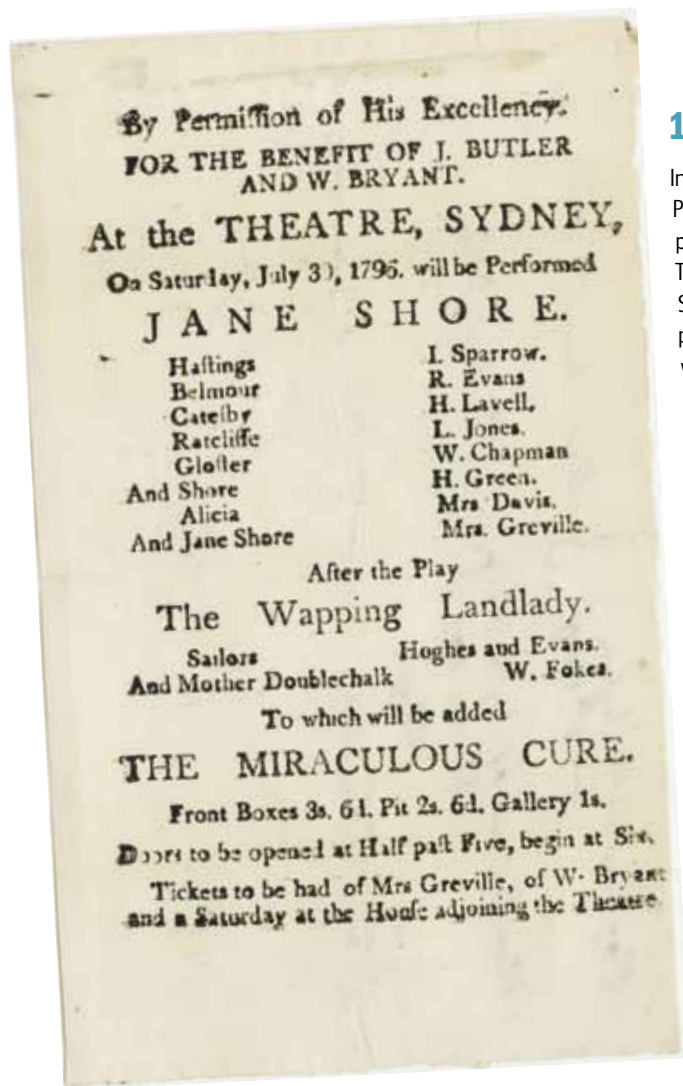
15. Kwakwaka'wakw Totem Pole Melbourne 2006

During the Cultural Festival of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, Canada sponsored the carving of a three-metre Kwakwaka'wakw totem pole, which was presented to the Shire of Nillumbik at the conclusion of the games. Made of red cedar, the totem pole was carved by master carver Wayne Alfred and Bruce Alfred from Alert Bay, British Columbia, members of the Namgis tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation.

The totem pole features an eagle at the top riding on the back of a killer whale with a wolf at the bottom.

The totem pole was presented to the Nillumbik Shire in Melbourne to commemorate the shire's hosting of the Canadian team during the Commonwealth Games. It is on permanent display at the Eltham Library as a symbol of the close friendship between Canadians and Australians.





16. The Playbill 2007

In 2007, during an official visit to Australia, Prime Minister Stephen Harper presented the people of Australia with a rare historic gift. The gift of a theatre playbill printed in Sydney in 1796 is the earliest known printed document in Australia. *The Playbill*, which left Australia in the possession of First Fleet Marine Officer and later Governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King, was printed by George Hughes. Mr Hughes operated the first printing press in the colony.

At an official presentation of *The Playbill* to the National Library of Australia, High Commissioner Michael Leir said it was “another example of the enduring relationship that continues to bring our two countries closer together.”

