



Above: The Paralympic Torch began its journey to the Paralympic Games in Sydney from the forecourt of Parliament House, Canberra, following a traditional Aboriginal ceremony to light the flame.



Above: As a gift to commemorate the opening of the new Parliament House in the Pacific nation of Kiribati, the Australian Parliament presented a Mace, the traditional symbol of parliamentary authority. Before it was flown to Kiribati for the presentation, the Mace was handed over to Australia's Parliament. Pictured left to right: Speaker Neil Andrew; the Senate's Usher of the Black Rod, Rob Alison (representing Senate President Margaret Reid); Melbourne silver and goldsmith, Fortuno 'Lucky' Rocca (who designed and crafted the Mace); and Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ian Harris.

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Above: Federal parliamentarians helped to launch White Balloon Day, a community campaign aimed at preventing child sexual abuse. The launch was sponsored by Parliamentarians Against Child Abuse, a bipartisan group founded by Craig Emerson (Member for Rankin, Queensland) and Danna Vale (Member for Hughes, New South Wales).



Above: Visitors to Parliament House recently helped to change the flag on the Parliament House flagpole. The flag changing ceremony is held twice a year. For more information call (02) 6277 5101.