



HOUSE ON THE HILL TURNS 25

Parliament House celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2013 with a program of activities that link into the Centenary of Canberra.

The house on the hill opened on 9 May 1988 after seven years of construction and decades of intense debate over where and how it should be built.

Twenty-five years on, the architects, artisans and construction crews who dedicated themselves to the creation of this world-renowned building are being honoured by a series of special events, including a specially commissioned ballet, the release of a commemorative coin by the Royal Australian Mint and the launch of a book celebrating the art and craft of Parliament House.

Parliament House Open Day will be held on 24 August, along with exhibitions throughout the year.

According to principal design architect Romaldo Giurgola (Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects), the building evolves as each important event takes place within its walls and grounds.

“This building is designed with this particular sense of history,” Mr Giurgola said.

A chronology of the significant events at Parliament House has been pieced together by the Parliamentary Library and is available online at: www.aph.gov.au/25th_Anniversary_Chronology

Today, the building accommodates more than 5,000 people during parliamentary sitting weeks and houses over 6,000 historic documents and artworks of significance to the nation.

Senator for the ACT Gary Humphries spoke about the unique look and feel of the building at the recent launch of the Parliament House chronology.

“It’s a building that’s very welcoming. As people come through it they gasp in delight and awe when they see the marble foyer,” Senator Humphries said.

“They can look through the marble foyer and see birds on the trees outside the chambers, and they can look down and see members crossing courtyards, and that creates a sense of connectedness.”

For more on the 25th anniversary of Parliament House, see ‘Threads of our nation’ on page 44 or visit: 25years.aph.gov.au