

MEDIA RELEASE

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Image caption: Cathy Wilcox, Emperor Turnbull, 2016

The best political cartoons of 2016 on show at the State Library

See the best political cartoons of 2016 in a witty exhibition now showing at the State Library of South Australia. ***Behind the Lines 2016: The year's best political cartoons*** is a travelling exhibition curated by the [Museum of Australian Democracy](#).

Featuring 83 political cartoons, the exhibition celebrates the role of political cartoonists in Australia and highlights the power that their drawings have in contributing to our daily political and social discourse.

Each year Behind the Lines explores Australia's unique, vibrant and fearless tradition of political cartooning. No politician, party or policy is safe from the nation's best cartoonists; witty, powerful or ribald, their images offer an astutely observed journey through twelve months in our political life. Each year these cartoons bring home to us that their voices are ours, capturing the spirit of our democracy in all its passion, scepticism and above all, humour.

And what material was on offer in 2016! From double-dissolution election, senate voting reforms, same sex marriage plebiscite and the census here at home, to the Brexit referendum and the US election, Australia's cartoonists created thousands of cartoons pillorying, satirising, commenting and providing their own unique insights.

The exhibition features a range of masters of cartoon art including Alan Moir, Chris 'ROY' Taylor, Chris Downes, David Rowe, David Pope, Mark Knight, Matt Golding, John Spooner and more from all major news outlets in Australia.

Alan Smith, Director of the State Library of South Australia, said, "We are excited to be hosting this national touring exhibition from the Museum of Australian Democracy. Connecting the community to stories and events of the past and present is an important role for the Library. This national exhibition provides the opportunity for the community to reconnect with what happened in politics in 2016 through the humour and creativity of cartoons."

Also on display are the works of Kerwin Maegraith, Adelaide born cartoonist, caricaturist and journalist. Described as a true Aussie larrikin, Maegraith drew Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill and Sir Donald Bradman just to name a few.

Alan Smith said, "People may not be aware of the importance of Kerwin Maegraith and his work. We are pleased to share this part of the Library's collection and the works of one of Adelaide's well-known cartoonists".

Behind the Lines 2016: The year's best political cartoons is on display at the State Library of South Australia until 28 January 2018.

Behind the Lines 2016 is a travelling exhibition from the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, proudly supported by the National Collection Institutions Touring and Outreach program. An Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

On show now until 28 January 2018

Open 10am – 5pm daily

Institute Building

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

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