



MEDIA RELEASE

FOUNTAIN COURT EXHIBITIONS AT PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 September 2025

Hala Kuo Papa – A Path Well-Trodden: Celebrating 200 Years of Tonga-Australia Partnership

Parliament of NSW hosts *Hala Kuo Papa – A Path Well-Trodden*, a unique exhibition tracing the 200-year relationship between Tonga and Australia. Named after Queen Sālote Tupou III's celebrated song about Tonga's three dynasties uniting in genealogy and strength, the exhibition reflects the deep and evolving ties between the two nations across culture, education, defence, diplomacy, migration, and community resilience.

"The story of Tonga and Australia is one of enduring partnership and shared heritage," said Louise Waterhouse, Consul-General of Tonga in Sydney. "From early missionary connections in the 1820s to modern collaborations in governance, trade, and culture, this exhibition honours the generations of people who have contributed to a vibrant and ongoing friendship between our nations."

The exhibition highlights significant historical milestones, including Tonga's 1875 Constitution, inspired in part by the New South Wales and Hawaiian constitutions, and the Golden Jubilee of Tonga's Consulate-General in Sydney in 2025, a vital bridge for the Tongan Australian community.

"This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to explore the rich connection our state has with Tonga," said the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council. "It celebrates a relationship built on shared values, cultural exchange and collaboration that continues to strengthen today."

Hala Kuo Papa – A Path Well-Trodden is a collaborative project between the Australian Museum, Tongan High Commission, Tonga Consulate-General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian High Commission in Tonga, National Archives of Australia, with support from NSW Parliament and Newington College.

See *Hala Kuo Papa – A Path Well-Trodden* between 9am and 5pm at the Parliament of New South Wales (6 Macquarie Street, Sydney) until 25 September 2025. Entry is free.

For more information about the exhibition visit: [Hala Kuo Papa](#)

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Media contact at NSW Parliament:

Anthea Darmon, Principal Communications Officer

antheadarmon@parliament.nsw.gov.au

02 9230 3024