

Behind the Lines 2023: All Fun and Games **The year that was, through the eyes of Australia's political cartoonists**

While 2023 may have come to an end, *Behind the Lines 2023: All Fun and Games* is just getting started at NSW Parliament House.

From the cost of living and climate change to the Voice referendum and international conflicts, 2023 was a year of major events which shaped our nation. *Behind the Lines: All Fun and Games* offers a fresh perspective on these complex issues, showcasing the wit and insight of established and emerging Australian cartoonists.

Whether you live in the city, regional Australia, or beyond, this retrospective will provide a laugh-out-loud (and often thought-provoking) look at the year that was.

Behind the Lines is a touring exhibition of 100 cartoons developed by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) in Canberra, Australia's national collecting institution dedicated to sharing the stories of Australia's democracy.

MoAD Director Stephanie Bull said the museum was excited to share its most popular exhibition with audiences around the country.

"Political cartoons are an important part of our democracy – they make it fun and accessible for everyone to discuss and debate the news and ideas of the day. They help encourage discussion and understanding in diverse communities across the country," she said.

"We strive to enable and inspire audiences to explore how social and political conversations are shaping an evolving Australia and equip them to participate as engaged citizens wherever they live in our nation."

The Hon Greg Piper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and host of the exhibition at NSW Parliament House remarked, "The *Behind the Lines* exhibition provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on 2023, taking in a witty and unique perspective on the year that was in politics," Mr Piper said.

"We look forward to welcoming members of the public into NSW Parliament House to experience *Behind the Lines 2023: All Fun and Games!*"

A highlight of this year's exhibition are works by Fiona Katauskas, a cartoonist for *The Guardian*, who was named 2023 Political Cartoonist of the Year. Judges acknowledged Katauskas's work for its heart, humour, and diversity.

In 2024, the touring program is generously supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

See *Behind the Lines 2023: All Fun and Games!* on weekdays between 9am and 5pm at NSW Parliament House (6 Macquarie Street, Sydney) until 1 August in the Fountain Court. Entry is free. For more information about the exhibition visit:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/visit/events/Pages/Behind-the-Lines-2023.aspx>

Dive further into the vibrant world of Australian political cartoons at *Behind the Lines: A Night with the Artists*, a special event where you can meet the artists behind this year's Behind the Lines theme. Find out more: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/visit/events/Pages/Behind-the-Lines-A-Night-with-the-Artists-2024.aspx>

Media contact at NSW Parliament: Anthea Darmon, Principal Communications Officer: anthea.darmon@parliament.nsw.gov.au, 02 9230 3024



Caption: Fiona Katauskas (Political Cartoonist of the Year), *Horses for Courses*, The Guardian, 3 June 2023