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## **Media Release**

### **Image of Federation returns to the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts**

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts have combined forces to arrange for the conservation of the famous Tom Roberts image of the opening of the Federal Parliament in 1901. It returned to Tenterfield after specialist treatment in Sydney by International Conservation Services and specialist framer Sophie Brown.

Incoming Executive Director of the National Trust, Mr. John Neish who visited Tenterfield as part of the Federation Rescue and Reform Conference and the annual Sir Henry Parkes Memorial lecture last weekend said he was "delighted this important artefact has returned to the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts".

"I would like to thank Council for their continuing support of this outstanding cultural facility. The quality of the collection is quite remarkable and I am sure visitors will enjoy this newly conserved addition," Mr Neish said.

The print depicts the opening of Australia's First Commonwealth Parliament at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne on 9 May, 1901. The original artwork hangs in Parliament House, Canberra and is the single most important symbol of the success of the Federation movement. Five hundred photo-engraved prints were produced and signed by the artist at the time, for distribution across the new nation.

The exhibit is on display in the Parkes Gallery and can be viewed during normal opening hours. It is accompanied by an interpretative panel produced at the time naming all individuals featured in the print.

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