



MAGNA CARTA COMMITTEE

Celebrating 800 Years of Liberty

Magna Carta Committee Newsletter

Issue 02 - February 2015

Completion of the 1215 Magna Carta in Australia

Work has now been completed on the latest edition of the original 1215 Magna Carta.

Margaret Layson has done a fabulous job as you will see from this photograph.

Affixed to the edition is a wax replica of the seal originally affixed by King John.

Wendy Alstin in Suffolk, England made the seal for us and on seeing the photograph of the replica, she wrote:

“We have been doing a number of King John copies for similar projects around the world. Some of the final results have not been very attractive. We can honestly say that your framed Magna Carta is the most tasteful we have seen and we are proud to have supplied you with seal.”

The replica will be displayed throughout Australia and ultimately be displayed in the High Court of Australia.

On 10 February 2015 we will show it to the High Court Justices.

The script close up...

*Hullus Lib' ho capiatur ut imp'oner' aut disseisiat' aut velagetur aut exulet' aut aliq' m'
destruat' nec sup' eu' ibum' nec sup' eu' mittem' n' p' legale iudiciu' pariu' suoz' et p' lege' tre*

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him or send others to do so except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the Land.

1215 Magna Carta - clause 39



The 1215 Magna Carta Replica on Display

Video of the Significance of the Magna Carta

As soon as you start explaining the significance of the Magna Carta to school students you can see them tuning out.

So we decided to engage a group of young film-makers (aged 16 - 18) to make a film for school students about the importance of Magna Carta.

Written and directed by Peter Hoskins, a student at Killara High School, he has brought the story of King John's conflict with the barons to life using one of the world's greatest passions - soccer (or football to our non-Australian readers).

Below are some photographs of the filming.

The film will feature a pair of conflicting commentators, plenty of on screen disputes and the occasional red card.

Do not expect Professor Brand or Nicholas Cowdery to appear.



Director, Peter Hoskins and his Assistant Director



King John stares down the barrel of the camera.



Filming crew enjoying being on set.

The Barons: Bigger Than Life



A whole series of lectures symposiums and events are planned in Australia about the Magna Carta for 2015.

These, however, will not engage school students and we consider that it is really important that the principles of the Magna Carta are understood by them.

“Wild in Art” in the UK has come up with a fantastic idea to do this.

It has over 25 models of the Barons made and placed all round Salisbury in the UK.

The idea is to have them painted by local artists and placed on the Barons trail in Canberra for students to find.

So that you can see a Baron, “Wild in Art” photographed one of them for us.

We would like to have 25 Barons on a trail in Canberra at strategic points i.e. Parliament House, the High Court etc.

We are hoping to raise the money to partly fund this and have sponsors for the rest.

The first Baron arrives in Australia next week!



Tax Deductible Status

The Magna Carta Committee has applied for tax deductible status.

To get this status we must be registered as a cultural organisation on the Register of Cultural Organisations.

Australia has one of the only two of the Magna Cartas outside of the UK. It is a very important document and a critical part of our culture.

Its preservation and promotion is of the utmost importance.

We understand the application has been approved and is awaiting final sign off from the Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

Face to Face With Students

The Rule of Law Institute of Australia is continuing to give face to face lectures to high school and university students, and teachers about the rule of law and the significance of Magna Carta.

We have the following visits planned where we intend to take our replica Magna Carta. This is in addition to the Institute providing extensive material to students online.

9-11 February - Armidale and Tamworth school visits (NSW)

23-27 February - Brisbane and Sunshine Coast school visits (QLD)

9 March - ACT Legislative Assembly (ACT)

13 March - Legal Studies Association Teachers Conference Sydney (NSW)

14-20 March - Gold Coast, Tweed Heads and Brisbane school visits (NSW, QLD)

10-11 July - Judicial Independence Conference at the University of Queensland (QLD)

20-23 July - Cairns secondary schools and James Cook University (QLD)

24-25 July - Business Educators' Association of Queensland Conference (QLD)

3-7 August - Legal Education Teachers Association of South Australia Teachers Conference and school visits (SA)

10-12 August - Geelong and Melbourne school visits (VIC)

24 August - Coffs Harbour school visits (NSW)

15-17 October - Orange, Blayney, and Cowra school visits (NSW)

5-8 December - Dubbo school visits and Distance Education Teachers Conference (NSW)



Australian Magna Carta Events 2015

The following lectures, symposiums and events are scheduled to take place in 2015 in Australia.

February - Launch of the Legacy of Magna Carta in the Commonwealth interactive website - *Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

February 10 - The presentation of the Magna Carta essay prize in the High Court - *Constitution Education Fund Australia*

March - Launch of hand copy of 1215 of Magna Carta - *Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

February 20 - Conference: "The Rule of Law: 800 years after the Magna Carta" - *Law Society of WA and the University of Western Australia Law School*

March - Launch of video of Magna Carta - *Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

April - Publication of Updated booklet on the Magna Carta - *Australian Senate*

April 15 - Paul Brand lecture at Melbourne University - *Melbourne University*

May 7 - History Council of NSW symposium on the Magna Carta at NSW State Library, Nick Cowdery one of the speakers - *History Council of NSW and Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

May 13 - Paul Brand lecture at High Court - *High Court of Australia*

May 18 - Paul Brand lecture at the Australian Academy of Law - *Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

June - Launch of Oliver Freeman's Book - *Law Council of Australia*

June - Australian Senate Occasional Lecture on Magna Carta - *The Australian Senate*

June 8 - Medieval Fair Exhibition of Museum of Australian Democracy - *Museum of Australian Democracy*

June 14 - Magna Carta celebration at Magna Carta Place in Canberra with Federal Guard Canberra - *Magna Carta Committee and Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

June 14 - Celebration of Magna Carta at St James Church, Sydney - *St James Church and Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

June 15/16 - Conference on Magna Carta and liberty Campion College, Toongabbie, Sydney - *Campion College*

June 18 and 19 - National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in Sydney - *Law Council of Australia*

June 24 - Speech by Prime Minister on Magna Carta (British High Commission Magna Carta Oration) - *British High Commission*

July 10-11 - Judicial Independence in Australia Conference - *University of Queensland TC Beirne School of Law*, sponsored by the *Rule of Law Institute of Australia*

30 October - Senate Symposium, Dyson Heydon one of the speakers - *Australian Senate*

Parliamentary Patrons

We are delighted that the **Hon. Bronwyn Bishop** MP, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the **Hon. Stephen Parry**, the President of the Senate, have agreed to be joint Parliamentary Patrons of the Committee. They join the **Hon. Robert French** AC who is the Patron.

Parliament and democracy owe their very existence to the Magna Carta and around the world Parliaments are celebrating the 800th anniversary.

Our Parliament is following the lead of the UK Parliament and planning a series of events to mark the anniversary.

We are hopeful that this will include a debate in Parliament on the relevance of the Magna Carta today. This is particularly important with anti-terrorism laws, Parliament and bureaucracy being in effect the modern day rulers.



Australian Parliament House. (Source: Christopher Chan - flickr.com/photos/chanc)



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COMMITTEE

www.magnacarta.org.au