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MEDIA RELEASE

Cartoonists go behind the lines at the Northern Territory Library

Through the eyes of Australia's top cartoonists, a National Museum of Australia exhibition captures the twists and turns of another eventful year in Australian politics. The exhibition opened at the Northern Territory Library this week.

"Viewed together, the cartoons show that 2010 was a remarkable year in Australian politics. The sudden demise of Rudd, the swift rise of Gillard and the near-success of Abbott surprised many," said Guy Hansen, Senior Curator at the National Museum of Australia.

"Much to our delight, the nation's cartoonists have been there throughout the year, recording the contours of this fascinating story".

The exhibition traces major events of the year including the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the announcement of a Resource Super Profits Tax on mining projects, the 2010 election and the first hung parliament in more than 70 years.

The cartoons in this year's exhibition represent the best Australian political cartoons sourced by the National Museum throughout the year. Artists include Bill Leak, Cathy Wilcox, John Spooner, David Rowe, Warren Brown, Dean Alston, Mark Knight, Sean Leahy and First Dog On The Moon.

Behind the Lines: The Year's Best Cartoons 2010 is a National Museum of Australia travelling exhibition and travelled to Parramatta, Melbourne, Perth and will be on display in Darwin until 16 October 2011.

The cartoons can also be viewed on the National Museum of Australia's website at: <http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions>

For interviews, images or more information please contact please contact Jo McGill, Director Northern Territory Library 89220785 or the National Museum's Public Affairs office on 02 6208 5338, 0438 620 710 or media@nma.gov.au

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