

The NMA Review Committee
DCITA
PO Box 2154
Canberra ACT 2601

13 March 2003

Dear Sirs

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA REVIEW

I take this opportunity to express my love of the National Museum of Australia ("NMA").

Initially I queried the importance of writing this letter. Upon reflection however, I realized that I owed my support to the NMA because it has found so many ways to portray a social history that is *relevant* to myself. I speak particularly of the "Playschool Clocks" Exhibition which I enjoyed because I had watched Playschool growing up some 20 years ago. I speak also of the Life, Love and Politics Exhibition, which has wonderfully captured the spirit, satire and humour found everyday in politics. My life is reflected in the exhibitions of the NMA. Put simply, I relate to the NMA.

Museums in general so often talk about a history so long gone that I find myself wandering the galleries as a spectator only. But at the NMA I am a participant and that wonderful feeling of empathy is generated. As a young person, I appreciate that I am further included in the NMA by invitations to events such as Youth Week.

I know that some of the exhibitions are somewhat controversial. Rather than admonishing that fact however, I say let us celebrate it. By analogy, the movies that stick in my mind are not comedies or romantic 'feel good' flicks but are, instead, the dramas of "hero" and "villain" and those dramas where the line between right and wrong is often not clear.

The NMA has sparked discussion amongst many of my family and friends from the architecture of the building to the nature and size of the exhibitions. I think this discussion is fantastic. Through discussion, debate and indeed argument the NMA has got people *thinking* about the social history of this nation. It is via this debate and *thinking* that one is truly able to say that this is a Museum of a clever country.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. McGrath". The signature is written in black ink and has a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lisa McGrath
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