“I fully accept that Australians will have different opinions of my government’s performance and of my leadership, but these views and assessments will be more compelling and persuasive when based on public records as well as media reporting and political commentary.”

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House is a living museum of social and political history.

**HOURS**
Mon – Fri 9:30am – 4:30pm
The Howard Library is free after entry to the Museum of Australian Democracy

**LOCATION**
Old Parliament House
18 King George Terrace,
Parkes, ACT 2600, Australia

**CONTACT**
info@howardlibrary.unsw.edu.au

The Contest of Ideas
An apolitical and non-partisan collection from John Howard’s political career
1996  **GUN BUY-BACK SCHEME**
Following the mass shooting at Port Arthur, Prime Minister John Howard announced a scheme for uniform gun laws throughout Australia. A buy-back of privately owned firearms was funded by a special levy on taxpayers.

2001  **THE TAMPA CONTROVERSY**
A Norwegian ship rescued 433 refugees fleeing repressive regimes in Afghanistan and the Middle East from their sinking boat in the Indian Ocean.

2000  **INTRODUCTION OF THE GST**
A goods and services tax was introduced as part of the Howard Government’s tax reform program aimed at redressing the effects of declining revenue from income tax.

2003  **WAR ON IRAQ**
In March 2003, Australia joined the US-led ‘Multinational force in Iraq’ in sending 2000 troops and naval units to support in the invasion of Iraq.

2005  **ANTI-TERRORISM ACT**
In the wake of a series of terrorist attacks overseas, the Anti-Terrorism Act 2005 was passed by the Australian Parliament with the intention of hampering potential terrorists in the country.