

14. *Speakers Square:* A Gift for the Centenary of Federation 2001

In December 2001, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that Canada would present a gift to mark Australia's Centenary of Federation.

The Canadian Prime Minister said: "Canada identifies closely with Australia. We are good friends who have followed similar paths in our development. Canada is delighted to mark this special Australian anniversary and is deeply honoured that our gift has been given such a prestigious setting: in the very heart of Canberra's parliamentary precinct."

Shortly after this announcement, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable John Howard, and the High Commissioner for Canada, Jean T. Fournier, unveiled Canada's gift, *Speakers Square*, located at Commonwealth Place.

In his address, Prime Minister Howard said: "Beautifully complementing the Canadian Government's Flagpole gift in 1957 and in clear view across the lake, *Speakers Square* will serve to remind us always of our connections and friendship with Canada."

Speakers Square is a pavement mosaic that was designed by leading Canadian artist John McEwen and constructed in the province of Ontario from Canadian granite. The work depicts the night skies of the northern and southern hemispheres and represents the shared experiences of people of all nations, living together as one under the heavens.

A commemorative plaque reads:

Canada's Gift in Honour of Australia's Centenary of Federation – 2001. This work of art was presented to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia by the Government of Canada. It was unveiled on 22 July 2002.

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P., Q.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable John Howard, M.P.
Prime Minister of Australia
His Excellency Jean T. Fournier
High Commissioner for Canada to Australia

The Gathering – "We humans are like semicircles, when we join, we form a circular space." John McEwen



15. *Kwakwaka'wakw* Totem Pole Melbourne 2006

During the Cultural Festival of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, Canada sponsored the carving of a three-metre Kwakwaka'wakw totem pole, which was presented to the Shire of Nillumbik at the conclusion of the games. Made of red cedar, the totem pole was carved by master carver Wayne Alfred and Bruce Alfred from Alert Bay, British Columbia, members of the Namgis tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation.

The totem pole features an eagle at the top riding on the back of a killer whale with a wolf at the bottom.

The totem pole was presented to the Nillumbik Shire in Melbourne to commemorate the shire's hosting of the Canadian team during the Commonwealth Games. It is on permanent display at the Eltham Library as a symbol of the close friendship between Canadians and Australians.

