

On the occasion of Expo 88, Brisbane, Queensland, the people of the Northwest Territories, Canada, offer their congratulations to the Commonwealth of Australia on its 200th anniversary of nationhood. This stone cairn Inukshuk is a symbol of friendship between the peoples of our two countries. High in the Canadian Arctic, Inuit built stone Inukshuks in the shape of humans to direct herds of migrating Caribou to hunters, and to act as landmarks for travellers.

13. *Dancing Walrus* Commemorates 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations 1999

The *Dancing Walrus* sculpture was a gift of the Canadian Government to the Australian people and parliament to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In January 2000, it was presented to the Australian Parliament by the Speaker of the Canadian Senate, the Honourable Gildas Molgat, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Gilbert Parent.

This sculpture is by the noted Inuit artist Aqjangajuk Shaa, one of the most eminent sculptors in Cape Dorset on the east coast of Arctic Canada. Born in 1937 in southern Baffin Island, Aqjangajuk has been carving since the age of 17 and his works can be found in nearly every major collection and publication of Inuit art.



Made of serpentine green soapstone with tusks of caribou bone, *Dancing Walrus* is part of the Parliament House Art Collection and is on public display in the gifts area, on the first floor of Parliament House.

There are two plaques which read:

Aqjangajuk SHAA
Born 1937
The Dancing Walrus
C 1998
Soapstone, caribou bone

Gift from people of Canada
Parliament House Art Collection

This sculpture is a gift from the people of Canada to the people of Australia in commemoration of sixty years of diplomatic relations 1939-1999