



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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Works underway to ensure the bells ring on!

The National Capital Authority (NCA) is delighted to have experts from John Taylor and Co visiting from the UK to commence works in preparation for the restoration of the iconic Carillon Bells.

Gifted to the people of Australia by the British Government in 1970, 2020 will mark an important milestone birthday for this iconic musical instrument in the heart of the National Capital.

With signs of wear and tear on the musical instrument after 48 years of use the NCA is undertaking an extensive repair and upgrade works in preparation for the 50th anniversary when it is proposed a yearlong celebratory program will be held.

Representatives from John Taylor & Co, founders of some of the world's finest bells began detailed planning which has involved measurements to cross check the instrument against the original 1970 drawings, the development of an enhanced design, the clavier to be built to new World Carillon Federation standards, the installation of larger bell clappers to create an increased depth of tone from the bells as well as enhancements to the practice instrument located on the upper floor to the main clavier.

“Sitting on Aspen Island the Carillon has become an instrument and landmark that resonates with visitors and locals alike. With such an iconic building and with the instrument itself one of only a few in the world, it is important that the sounds the carillon produces is first class. We have brought in the experts [John Taylor and Co] and look forward to working with them over the next few years to ensure the sounds of the carillon are heard better than ever come 2020.” Said Sally Barnes Chief Executive, National Capital Authority.

The NCA manages the Carillon on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Carillon is played on a regular basis by Carillonneur's at weekly recitals and special events.

For further information on the restoration project, call Kate on 0422 232 349 or email kate.still@nca.gov.au or for a full schedule of carillon performances visit www.nca.gov.au.

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