

## Lifestyle Report

### Parliament house visit

Residents at Kew Gardens had a very exciting trip on 20th August 2015 travelling into Melbourne's business district to historic Parliament House. They arose especially early, eager to attend the question time session being held that day. We were shown through security on arrival and then wandered along the bowels of Parliament House led by Annabel — our tour guide. We were shown to the beautiful foyer all tiled in variegated colours, which were quite spectacular. Annabel informed us that Parliament was in session today and they were expecting approximately 86 members in for question time that morning.

We were led into the Chambers and seated in the gallery to watch the political dramas unfold. It was an extraordinary scene with all representatives arriving for the 11am question time session all at once. They were like cattle coming in for the slaughter! The speaker called all 'to Order' and then it began. The noise level was unbelievable with shouting coming evenly from both sides. The residents found the fervent exclamations very loud but amusing and came away wondering whether anything was actually ever resolved in these sessions! It certainly was an eye opener to all who attended.

We boarded the bus back to the beautiful Boulevard Restaurant in Kew where we enjoyed a lovely meal overlooking the green golf course — a lovely way to finish our day. There was a lot of animated chatter amongst the residents with no one deciding to put up their hand and volunteer to stand for Parliament! However, it was easy to get us all back to Kew Gardens by interrupting the chatter and calling the table TO ORDER, as was seen in Parliament that morning! All the residents enjoyed the new 'in' joke and home we rode after an extremely interesting and happy day.

