

President presents WA Museum with historical invitation

The Legislative Council had recently obtained advice from the Museum on acquiring a set of framed invitations from the Federation period. This advice was particularly useful, prompting me to suggest lunch with the CEO and Board to thank them and to discuss some common interests.

The Parliament building is an important part of the State's built heritage and is the stage for many of the State's historic decisions and events. As such, it seemed appropriate to bring together other institutions dealing with the State's political heritage to consider how we might work together in future.

As a result, the Acting CEO of the Museum, Diana Jones, with board members, Allanah Lucas and Professor Anita Lee Long, along with Betty O'Rourke, CEO of the Constitutional Centre, met with me and the Clerk of the Legislative Council, Malcolm Peacock, to explore the potential of working together to promote public awareness of the Parliament and its history.

I had learned the Museum only held a battered copy of the State invitation to the opening of the Goldfields pipeline in 1902. As luck would have it, a pristine copy was among the items the Council had recently acquired. Given the assistance provided by the Museum, I was very pleased to be able to present it to the Museum. The construction of the pipeline was a very significant event in Western Australia's history, enabling the development of the Goldfields and the State's future development. It was recently rated as one of the great engineering feats of the 20th Century. At the time of construction, it was the longest freshwater pipe in the world, however most West Australians associate the pipeline with the tragic death of the pipeline's designer, C.Y. O'Conner. The remainder of the collection of invitations will be used in future public displays in the Legislative Council.



Picture: The Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Invitation, circa 1903.



Picture: The Clerk of the Legislative Council, Mal Peacock, Allanah Lucas, Board of Trustees, Diana Jones, Acting CEO of the Museum of WA, The President, Betty O'Rourke, CEO of the Constitutional Centre, Donald Allison, Clerk Assistant, and Professor Anita Lee Hong, Board of Trustees.