

HERITAGE PERTH WEEKEND

Statement by Minister for Heritage

The SPEAKER: Minister, before you speak today, I hear it is a very momentous occasion. It is your birthday. I am not going to be like you and sing, but I would like to wish you happy birthday.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.10 pm]: That is very kind. I have always thought of you as a kind man, Mr Speaker.

I rise to advise members of this house that on Saturday, 20 October, I had the pleasure of officially opening the annual Heritage Perth Weekend for its tenth anniversary—anniversary.

The SPEAKER: You had a few drinks early, minister?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Heritage Perth Weekend celebrates the history and heritage of the City of Perth and allows us all to reflect on the journeys of those who have gone before us.

Formerly known as Perth Heritage Days, what started as a one-day event in 2009 went on to become a two-day event the following year due to its astounding success. The 2018 Heritage Perth Weekend saw the city come alive through exhibitions and presentations, walking and guided tours, children's activities and, of course, open buildings. The event saw the doors to some of our city's most iconic locations open to the public, including the newly renovated and restored Melbourne Hotel, His Majesty's Theatre, the belltower and the old Observatory just to name a few. Giving all Western Australians a chance to look inside the inner world of some of Perth's most historic and iconic landmarks is incredibly important in maintaining and building upon our collective sense of history and culture. It enables the ongoing telling of these significant stories through our heritage places.

I am very pleased to report that visitation numbers were approximately 18 000, which included nearly 2 000 Pokémon GO trainers visiting 10 heritage places within the centre of the city. I am very happy to relay to the house that feedback from this has been overwhelmingly positive and the aim of engaging a new, predominantly younger, audience to the history and heritage of the city has definitely been achieved. The event is managed by Heritage Perth, which is an independent not-for-profit organisation that develops innovative projects to help increase appreciation of the importance of heritage places and spaces in Perth. Heritage Perth does an amazing job and I thank its executive director, Leigh Barrett, and chair, Paula Rogers, for all the amazing work that they do. I look forward to next year's Heritage Perth Weekend.