

BOULDER — 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [12.58 pm]: This year, 2022, is a special year for the goldfields as it is the 125th anniversary of Boulder becoming a municipality, on 6 August 1897. Paddy Hannan may have found the gold that sparked the initial rush, but it was Will Brookman and Sam Pearce whose discoveries of the rich ore bodies of Boulder secured the region's future. The original discovery, the Ivanhoe lease, was the first of 17 leases secured. The second lease that Pearce pegged was the fabulously rich Great Boulder mine. The building of Boulder began in earnest, and what had been a collection of canvas tents and hessian shanties became a town of brick and iron buildings. One of its major landmarks, the Boulder Town Hall, was built in 1908 and featured a stage curtain by world-renowned designer Philip Goatcher. Dame Nellie Melba performed in the town hall in July 1914.

On 6 August 2022, I attended the magnificent Back to Boulder Gala Night held in the Boulder Town Hall, which officially commemorated the 125th anniversary of Boulder—on the exact day! Hundreds of people attended the event—not only people whose families had been linked to Boulder in the past, but also people who still lived there. Numerous people were responsible for making the 125th anniversary celebrations possible, but I would like to highlight three—Neville Hatton and Councillors Mick McKay and Kirsty Dellar. Congratulations on making all the events surrounding Boulder's 125th anniversary a memorable occasion.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm