

# POWA to the People

## Parliament of Western Australia Community Newsletter



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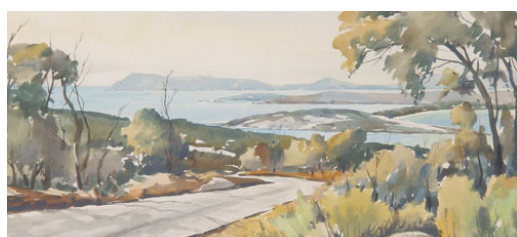


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### Covid-19: Tours Postponed

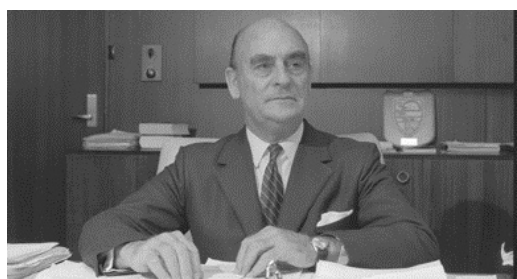
Western Australia like the rest of the world has confronted many challenges this year because of Covid-19. Your Parliament has played a crucial role by passing emergency legislation on extra sitting days. This legislation has been designed to limit the spread of the virus and support those on the front line, such as health workers who care for those most affected. We can all do our bit by maintaining social distancing and regular hand washing. Another way Parliament has played its part is by postponing tours. Although you may not currently be able to visit us in person you can still visit us [online](#).



Apex Drive, Albany  
Maurice Kennedy, 1964

### Getting to the Art of the Matter

We have all been protected by recent restrictions put in place to limit travel between different regions. You may even have a particular image of a certain town or setting that looms large in your mind. Although you may be unable to visit us at present, Parliament has a large art collection of paintings from over 140 local government areas which you can view [online](#).



Premier John Tonkin  
State Library of Western Australia: BA1119/P269

### Remember a Member

We all have memories of particular parliamentarians and the contributions they have made to our great state. It may be a former local member, a particular minister or even a premier such as John Tonkin pictured. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to find out about their lives both in and outside of Parliament? With our online [Biographical Register](#) just a few taps away, all this information is now at your fingertips.



Chichester Boys' Club, Parliament House, 1959  
Image courtesy of westpix



*Soldiers in formation in front of Pensioner Barracks, Perth, c1863*  
State Library of Western Australia: 303442PD



Michael bringing the house down as the Dame in Puss in Boots at the Playhouse Theatre's last production in 2010 before its demolition in 2012. Michael's performance and the demise of the much loved theatre are not related.

Image courtesy of Australian Stage

### Follow us:



## Fast Facts

Did you know that if you came to Parliament last year, you were one of 40,000 local, interstate and international guests to do so? More than half of these visitors also took a tour of Parliament House learning about its rich heritage and the role it plays in protecting our democracy.

Although tours are currently postponed check our [website](#) and [social media](#) regularly, so you can be the first to know when they resume.

## All Quiet on the Eastern Front

Standing sentry beside the Mitchell freeway, opposite Parliament House's imposing eastern façade is the curious Barracks Arch. Although this strange architectural feature remains silent today, it has a boisterous history. Our visitors to Parliament often ask about its previous roles and it is a fascinating story of the early colony. The Barracks was originally built to house the pensioner guards and their families. Their main role was to supervise the early convicts. It also served as the catalyst for the Perth to Coolgardie pipeline which was conceived of during the gold rush. Through the proceeds of this gold rush Parliament House was constructed. Although the side wings of the Barracks were controversially demolished in the nineteen seventies, fortunately the central arch was preserved. The upper, middle window marks the office of the designer of the pipeline, Chief Engineer, CY O'Connor. Fittingly the best vantage point to view the arch is from the drinking water fountains in the parliamentary forecourt facing the city.

## A Class Act of Parliament

Whilst visiting Parliament House, many of you would have had the chance to meet Michael Loney. As one of our most popular Tour Presenters, Michael brings to his engaging presentations years of acting experience. Michael enjoys a resume the envy of many, having appeared in classics such as *Coronation Street*, *Howards' Way* and closer to home *Ship to Shore*, *The Shark Net* and Parliament's very own *The Key to Your House*. Hopefully it won't be too long before Michael can once again regale you with his fascinating observations of Parliament House during the always in demand *Talk and Tour* series. Just quietly, we think it's his finest role yet!

Watch Michael in action in episodes of [The Key to Your House](#), a 13 part television production on Parliament in conjunction with West TV.

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