

Recognition of the "Lucinda" model, lent by Queensland Transport to the Supreme Court

Wednesday 6 September 2000 1.00pm

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey

Notwithstanding this was dubbed an informal gathering, I wish briefly to make some important acknowledgements.

First, our gratitude to Queensland Transport for lending this excellent model of such an historically significant vessel. It was, as you see from the inscription, crafted for the government in 1998, by Mr Dean Clifton, a founding member of the Australian Society of Marine Artists. The crafting took Mr Clifton as many as 1800 hours.

I am told the hull is built of jelutalong, of laminated construction, glued and pinned with brass screws. The main deck is planked properly, and in scale. The upper deck is constructed of marine ply, and the railings and the ship's bulwarks of brass, with stanchions of cast bronze. The paddle wheels are wood and aluminium. The anchors are hand forged from copper. The banisters of the ship's ladders, the ship's wheel and the legs of the benches which line the upper deck are all of turned brass. The carving on the bow and stern are from boxwood.

She appears with canvas awnings and bunting flying as trimmed for ceremonial occasions.

The completed model is as true to her real appearance as possible. It was built after extensive research of all known photographs and interpretation of contemporaneous observations.

The display of course anticipates in a wonderfully appropriate way our construction of the replica of the constitutionally important "smoking room", which we hope to have completed and in place by next March.

And so we especially welcome and thank today the Director General of Queensland Transport, Mr Bruce Wilson.

We appropriately note with pleasure also, representation today of the Centenary of Federation Committee (Queensland), which is funding the construction of the replica of the smoking room to the tune of \$90,000, through the Community Grants Program.

Allowing for further funding from the Supreme Court Library Committee, there remained \$60,000 to be secured. Much of that amount has been secured, thanks to the generosity of these people and firms I now name, donors to the Supreme Court Library Committee:

Mr Robert Anderson, Senator George Brandis,

The Queensland Law Society, Allen Allen & Hemsley, Clayton Utz, Flower & Hart, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, McCullough Robertson, and Thynne & Macartney

There will be further acknowledgement of their participation and of any others who may like to contact the Supreme Court Librarian, Mr Aladin Rahemtula in that regard!

This model, the forthcoming replica of the smoking room, the Rare Books Room, the regalia, the historically interesting court furniture displayed increasingly around the building: these all combine to illustrate the determination of the Judges to make this courthouse more physically interesting, and in that we also look forward to the continuing support of the recently established Supreme Court Library History Society, represented here today by the convenor, Dr Michael White QC. We greatly appreciate Dr White's work in this area, especially through the oral histories project and the recent inaugural lecture in the Banco Court by Justice Callinan.

We Judges are grateful for all of this support, and in an immediate sense today, for the generous co-operation of Queensland Transport.

Thank you all, ladies and gentlemen, for your presence and support.