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The Chung Wah Association

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Letter to seek donations for conservation of jacket from East Perth Pioneer Cemetery.

Some people may not know the first cemetery in the Perth city area was built in 1829 on the top of the hill in Bronte Street, East Perth, close to the Old Girls' School.

The early local settlers are buried here, with Presbyterian and Chinese buried across the road. The Old Girls' School and the block behind were sold to developers a few years ago. Part of the agreement was the excavation and relocation of remains, which would be interred into ossuary boxes at Karrakatta Cemetery prior to any new building. Other artefacts uncovered would be transferred to the National Trust which oversees the main cemetery site. The excavation process is nearing completion and some interesting items have been found.

Among artefacts received by the Trust was a man's jacket from in the Chinese section of the cemetery. The archaeologists have commented how well the fabric jacket/ coat has been preserved. Whilst it does not visibly identify as being uniquely Chinese there is little or nothing in WA to compare it to. If it is a garment typical of the Chinese period, then it will be of great significance to the Chinese history in WA.

The National Trust is keen to further conserve the jacket for use by researchers and for future displays. As this work is very costly, they are appealing to the Chinese community in particular to support this appeal. We are approaching the 200th anniversary of Western Australia in 2029 which marks the arrival of CHOW Moon as well. There remains very little tangible evidence of the early Chinese presence in WA so this jacket has become one of the few pre-1900 artefacts.

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and the National Trust is keen to start the conservation process soon to halt further deterioration. The quote to date is \$13,000. We know this year has been very difficult for the whole community, however if we all donate a small sum it would soon add up and the project could start.

Donation can be made directly to the National Trust of Australia (WA) – 'Chinese Jacket Project'

BSB: 306 089

ACC: 418 9329

Bankwest

Once payment is made, donors can email finance@ntwa.com.au with the details of their donation so they can send a donation receipt.

Yours Sincerely

Executive Committee
Chung Wah Association

28 July 2020