

NAIDOC WEEK — TAMARA PARKER AND ANN HAWKE

Statement by Member for Belmont

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [12.55 pm]: Today I rise in celebration of NAIDOC Week. This year's theme of "Always Was, Always Will Be" recognises that our state's extraordinary landscape always was and always will be Aboriginal land. NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity to learn about and recognise the incredible contribution of Aboriginal people in our community. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the joint recipients of the City of Belmont 2020 NAIDOC Community Award—locals Tamara Parker and Ann Hawke.

Tamara Parker has played an integral role as the Aboriginal education officer at Carlisle Primary School since 2011. In the past 12 months, she has established the KindiLink program for Indigenous children from birth to three years of age. Her education programs have included sports and cultural celebrations and educational incursions, excursions and workshops that have enhanced the learning outcomes of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and families in the community, and promoted Indigenous culture, sport and history.

Ann Hawke has been a foster carer for the past 35 years, caring for some 53 children, and is a founder of local Aboriginal organisation Kinship Connections Aboriginal Corporation, delivering community services to Aboriginal people. In the past 12 months, Ann has successfully reunited 18 children with their mothers, and found families for 112 children. Ann has developed the "Who's My Mob?" program via Kinship Connections that supports young Aboriginal people to identify, connect and reconnect with their birth families.

I would like to take this moment to acknowledge the outstanding and incredible contribution of these two local women who make our community better.