

to join to help celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of Nicholas Baudin's voyages of discovery as I mentioned earlier.

I say thank you to the many Liberals who have helped me over many years with moral support, vociferous discussion on issues as enthralling as elephant bird eggs - I thank Kevan Smith - and physical support during the election campaigns. I also thank Ron Maidment, who turned 90 years of age last month, who will forever be blamed for being the first person to have put the idea into my head in 1987 that I should consider standing for Parliament. I record the strong support given to me over many years by the late Lionel Berryman of Albany, who sadly passed away last October.

To my wife, Carolina, and my mother and brothers and their families, and to my friends and youthful influences - here I list a number: the Rains, Palmer and Danischewsky families; Percy Penguin; classmates from St Louis; roommates from St Thomas More College; Rotarians; Busselton Naturalist Club members; the new year's eve camp crew; mining industry associates and many others - I say that their support, friendship and argumentativeness over many years have been greatly appreciated.

To all those in the farming community of the south west, whether I explored their properties for minerals or more recently worked with them on land care projects, I say that I shall not forget their contribution to the economic wellbeing of this State. Although some of them may be suffering now from tough economic times and others from decisions made by previous Governments on matters relating to drainage rates, I shall stand by them.

I thank the diverse mix of people who make up my electorate of Vasse for their support. I support the sentiments of people such as George Webb, who represents the Noongar people of Busselton, that land rights in their current format are not bringing Australians together, but instead are dividing them and are even working against the reconciliation process. I am pleased to make a personal commitment to oppose racism and prejudice wherever and whenever possible, and I pledge to do more than just "have an Aboriginal person to Christmas lunch in 1980", as was proffered by a certain south west personality as a token offering to this cause.

To Allie Scott and members of the Busselton Jetty Management Committee I say keep up the good work - I have not forgotten my goal of seeking a refund of Department of Conservation and Land Management royalties for logs used as piles in jetty reconstruction.

To the people of Vasse, I submit that growth is inevitable, but we must devise ways by which we decide our own future, rather than having it imposed upon us from outside or by a laissez faire failure on our part to control our own destinies. We cannot, and should not, put up artificial barriers to growth and development. Instead we should plan our own future and then act to ensure it is achieved.

I look forward to working with this Government over the next four years to achieve continued economic development for the State which, in turn, will ensure the promised social dividends are paid. I congratulate the Speaker on his election to the position and, with my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House, I look forward to four years of open and honest efforts to govern for the betterment of all Western Australians.

[Applause.]

MRS HODSON-THOMAS (Carine) [11.04 am]: Mr Deputy Speaker, please pass on my congratulations to the Speaker on his election, and may I say how delighted I was to accompany him and the members for Thornlie and Vasse to the Governor's residence. I also extend my congratulations to my parliamentary colleagues on their election and I wish them well. May we all go forward and serve the interests of our electorates with honesty and integrity.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my predecessor, the former Speaker Hon James George Clarko, who served the constituencies of Marmion and Karrinyup for 23 years with distinguished service. Jim played an active role in the previous Court coalition Government. He was Government Whip in his first term, from 1975 to 1977, and was Chairman of Committees from 1977 to 1982. On the retirement of Sir Charles Court he became Minister for Education but unfortunately this work was cut short as a result of the defeat of the coalition Government in 1983. At that time he only narrowly missed out on being elected as deputy leader of the party. During the long years in opposition, Jim served continually in the shadow Cabinet as spokesman for education and later for local government. He has been a mainstay of the Liberal Party both in the Parliament and in the community and his role as Speaker was a fitting conclusion to a distinguished career. It is a career that I am certain will not go unnoticed, and I feel deeply privileged to follow in his footsteps.

It has been said on many occasions that I have large shoes to fill, and I acknowledge that I cannot begin to fill Jim's shoes. Firstly, there are many differences between Jim and me, not the least being that we are different in stature, different in nature, different in years, different in gender, and different in worldly wisdom. Although these are just a few subtle differences, we do share much in common, the least of which might be our interest in rugby and the most

important of which is our belief in liberal philosophies and the free enterprise system. I ask the members of this House to join with me in thanking Jim Clarko for his services to the people of Western Australia and wish Jim and Edith Clarko a full and happy retirement.

It is with a great sense of pride, yet humility, that I stand in this House and speak as the inaugural member for Carine. The Carine electorate embraces, in part, the suburbs of Duncraig, Karrinyup, Trigg and Sorrento and covers all of the suburbs of Carine, Marmion, North Beach and Waterman. Many of the electors of my constituency are people who are self-made. I take this opportunity to thank them for their support and faith in me. I do not take the responsibility they have bestowed upon me lightly. I intend to, and will, serve the people of Carine with determination and vigour.

One of the outstanding assets in my electorate is the presence of some of the most beautiful beaches in Australia, if not the world. I can say this with conviction as I have been fortunate during my travels to have visited many beaches in the Mediterranean, Sri Lanka and the eastern and southern coasts of our great nation. It is imperative that the maintenance of this natural, social and family environment be preserved, and I consider this to be one of my priorities.

Western Australia has a unique and one of the most effective and well planned loop road systems in the world. One of the major benefits in having such an uncomplicated highway and freeway infrastructure in place is that road users are able to bypass suburban and local community streets. Motorists are in a position to traverse the city, to gain access to the Kwinana Freeway and travel from approximately Medina at this time through to Joondalup, and soon they will be able to travel further afield on it.

Reid Highway is slowly making its way through to Marmion Avenue. It has been extended to Erindale Road. This is of great importance to my electorate as much of the traffic exiting Reid Highway now enters North Beach Road, which is causing much anguish to the residents of Karrinyup and Carine. They are plagued by heavy vehicles which use these suburban roads to access Marmion Avenue, Karrinyup and Beach Roads. I understand that it is not on the Government's agenda to complete the extension of Reid Highway for some time. I consider this to be detrimental to the wellbeing and safety of the residents who are being affected by the delay. Traffic on all the feeder roads to Marmion Avenue, North Beach Road and Beach Road is excessive. It seems only a matter of time before a serious motor vehicle or pedestrian accident occurs. I urge the Government to consider advancing the completion of Reid Highway to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and their families.

I acknowledge and congratulate the Government on announcing its funding boost to speed up the replacement of asbestos roofs on Western Australian government school buildings. I am certain that the parents, teachers and students of Karrinyup Primary School will look forward to their roof being replaced.

During my doorknocking visits of many thousands during the recent election campaign the single most important issue raised with me was law and order. Crime is not discriminatory. It may at some time affect us all. My own parents have been subjected to home invasion, as has my electorate officer and his family, who were victims of a burglary and who were held hostage by two hooded thieves who broke into their home, threatened them with knives and subsequently gagged and tied them up. During this invasion the thieves ransacked their home and stole their vehicle, which was later found vandalised. The thieves were never identified. As elected representatives it is critical that we accept our duty to the community to legislate and ensure that the penalties fit the crimes.

Another area of importance to my electorate is the encouragement of programs that captivate our youth. It is vital that they become involved in community affairs and that they share in the decision making process to assist in the solutions relating to the many pressures our youth face. Take, for example, youth unemployment, exposure to drugs, youth suicide and the pressures to succeed, to name but a few.

I look forward to the challenges ahead with some trepidation. I intend to take an interest in everything that comes before me, but of personal interest to me are issues relating to the marine industry. As the former executive officer of the Boating Industry Association, an industry group established in the 1970s to benefit the boating public, the boating consumer and recreational boating industry, I have a sound background of the industry in this State. I am currently chairing a special safety group established by the Premier to examine the current regulations relating to the carriage of emergency position indicating radio beacons, commonly known as EPIRBs. Although we rejoiced in the successful rescues of Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois, it was a great sadness to lose the lives of three people off Cape Naturaliste and then again weeks later to lose three more lives off Esperance.

I convey my sincere condolences to all the families affected by these tragedies and to the many families that have been touched in some way by the loss of lives at sea.

While the issue of EPIRBs is of vital importance to search and rescue and the costs associated with rescues, there is clearly more to the issue of maritime safety, which is complex. I trust that I will have the opportunity on another

occasion to enlarge on this subject which should be of great concern to us all. This State has a vast coastline of some 12 000 kilometres, much of it isolated. There are some 55 000 registered boats in this State and a similar number of unregistered boats, namely sailing vessels, not motorised. Many people participate in this leisure activity and the wellbeing and safety of boat users is dear to my heart. The charter of the boating industry is to promote boating as a safe, pleasant family activity. In my late twenties I was a keen sailor. Regrettably I do not participate in the sport today, probably because I do not have enough time. However, I have a genuine love of boating. I encourage all members to actively engage in this most enjoyable pursuit. In saying this I ask members to reflect on a time when they may have participated in a boating activity. How many members took the time to find out where the emergency equipment was located? Did they take the time to try on the life jacket; ask about, or read the instructions on, the lighting of a flare; did they ask how to operate a marine radio if faced with an emergency? I imagine that members who are not regular boat users answered in the negative. If I can make one suggestion, I ask that when next members step on board a boat, they do not wait to be told - ask.

I am proud of my personal achievements during my time with the Boating Industry Association. I am particularly pleased to have broken ground by being the first woman executive officer in its 25 year history. Another important role was to organise Western Australia's premier nautical event, the Boat Show, and last year's Perth boat, dive and fishing show was heralded by the industry as the best show ever. Profits were up over 100 per cent and gate attendance up by 42 per cent, which was never achieved by the men who preceded me.

Members might wonder what drove me to achieve success in this sphere. My inspiration came from overhearing a male colleague in the industry say that the best place for a woman on a boat was overboard without a life jacket on. I am pleased to say that this is not the view held by the majority in the industry and I thank all the members of the association for their faith and trust in me during my time with them. I hope one day this State will be the beneficiary of a purpose built venue to cater for the growing demands of the many event organisers in Western Australia.

For many members this will be of little or no interest. However, as a mother juggling family commitments with a busy career it highlights the capacity women have to manage both family and professional careers, because to me each is equally as important as the other.

Finally, I pay tribute to a number of important people in my life. Firstly, I thank my loyal campaign helpers for their encouragement and support. I realise that without their help I would not be here today. It is those good, decent individuals who make me proud to be a member of the Liberal Party. They seek no acclamation yet they are always there.

I know that this is a very proud occasion for my family, particularly my parents, who as European migrants came to this wonderful country in the early 1950s in search of a better way of life. I am very privileged to be their daughter and I thank my mother and father for their love and guidance and for raising me with Christian values. Finally, I thank my husband Kerry and our wonderful sons, Curtis and Carl, for their unconditional love, their enduring tolerance and more particularly their faith in me and, in the spirit of traditional rugby men, Kerry's coaching to always keep my eyes on the ball, to outwit my opponent and to get that ball out on the wing quickly.

[Applause.]