

**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —  
PERTH ROYAL SHOW PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON**

*Statement by Minister for Tourism*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Tourism)** [12.06 pm]: I take this opportunity to share with members an event I had the pleasure of attending on Sunday, 29 September. I was invited to attend the Perth Royal Show president's luncheon hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia. The luncheon was dedicated to recognising the contribution of rural women. The society is a member-based and not-for-profit organisation that works all year round to promote primary industries. I was joined by 80 other guests, including women from across the state, who make valuable contributions to their local communities.

Three women were recognised at the lunch. They were Liz Bradshaw, Olivia Grigson and Coralie Parkin. Liz Bradshaw lives and works as a regional health promotion officer in Mullewa and is our 2013 rural ambassador. As rural ambassador, she seeks to promote the importance of rural health and address the barriers that young people face in pursuing career opportunities in the country. For Olivia Grigson, the challenges of being new to the agricultural industry, and wanting some guidance and support, led her, along with other women in the region, to form the Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East group. The goal of the group was to create a support network for women in the eastern wheatbelt who were involved in the agriculture industry. Its aim is to promote education and promote involvement in the industry, while also promoting personal and family health and wellbeing. Coralie Parkin, from Bolinda Vale Farm, has spent her whole life on this historical farm, established by her grandfather in 1926. Over the years, the dairy farm and orchard has been transformed into a working beef and sheep property. Like so many women, Coralie has spent her life juggling challenging farm work with caring responsibilities as a mother of two and a grandmother of seven. She has also been the full-time carer for her brother since he suffered a serious head injury over 35 years ago.

These are just some of the incredible and inspirational women who work tirelessly to build flourishing lives in rural areas across our state. Their contributions are driven by a love of country life, and their contributions support families, industry and the community—building our regions for the future. I was very much inspired by their stories of rural life in WA and commend the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia for celebrating their achievements.