

Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Linda Savage; Hon Helen Bullock; Hon Michael Mischin; Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm; Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Phil Edman; Hon Ed Dermer; Hon Ken Baston;
Hon Brian Ellis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA DAY (RENAMING) BILL 2011

Second Reading

Resumed from 21 March.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [8.13 pm]: Before I begin my comments on the bill, members will be aware that it was read into the house on the Wednesday of last week. Behind the Chair, the Leader of the House approached the opposition and asked whether we would be prepared to bring on the bill today to assist in finding some work for us to do. The Leader of the House is loath to vary the arrangements whereby a bill sits on the table for a week, and members on this side certainly appreciate that. I want to put on record that normally we would not be dealing with this bill until tomorrow.

The bill before us renames what we know now to be Foundation Day to Western Australia Day and amends the acts that refer to public holidays—that is, the Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972 and the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993, which refers to rates of payment and entitlements on public holidays.

It is a very small and very simple bill, but, symbolically, it is very important. Foundation Day celebrates the formal beginning of European settlement in Western Australia through the establishment of the Swan River Colony. Captain Stirling and his crew aboard the *Parmelia* saw the coast of Western Australia around the Swan River on 1 Jun 1829. That was a very important day in our history. I rang my dad today to check the facts with him.

Hon Kate Doust: Was he there with them?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Not quite. I will tell him the member suggested that!

On my father's side, I am a descendant of Sophia Dent, who was born aboard one of the boats that came to Western Australia in July 1829. She married William Ellery, of whom not much is known, other than that we think he jumped ship from an American vessel and ended up marrying Sophia Dent. There is a William Ellery who signed the American Declaration of Independence, and we claim him, although I am not sure that anything has been proved.

European settlement was, and is, a very important part of our history. As a day that celebrates our state, though, the name Foundation Day has not captured all our history. As a name, it excludes the 40 000-plus years of Aboriginal history in this landmass that we call Western Australia. Nor does Foundation Day, as a name, adequately recognise the waves of non-European settlement—for example, from South-East Asia and more recently from Africa and Afghanistan, to name just a couple. Renaming the day to Western Australia Day encompasses in the name what we have for the most part chosen to celebrate on Foundation Day in recent decades, which is all that is great and good about Western Australia. The bill before us gives a name to all Western Australians, whether they are sixth-generation born and bred like I am, or those whose lineage goes back 40 000 or more years, or those who have migrated here more recently.

I was pleased that a version of this bill appeared in the form of a private member's bill under the name of one of the Labor members in the Assembly. It is a good thing. In respect of our relationship with Aboriginal people, it is part of reconciliation, recognising that we can make differences to things that have symbolic importance to people without losing respect for that part of our history that is our European history, as we should be proud of many of the elements of that also. The opposition is happy to support the bill.

HON ALISON XAMON (East Metropolitan) [8.17 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Greens (WA) to indicate that we also support the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. It is about renaming Foundation Day to a term that will hopefully serve to be more inclusive—Western Australia Day. I note that Foundation Day was originally a commemoration of the first European settlement in Western Australia, although there seems to be some dispute over when the boat actually landed and whether Albany should in fact be able to claim that it was indeed the first settlement in WA. I am not getting into those arguments, but I note that at least there has been a broad understanding that Foundation Day has commemorated the beginning of European settlement. Of course, that means that it is also about commemorating what for the first peoples of Australia, the Aboriginal people, is not a positive point in their long history on this continent. It has to be acknowledged that, for many Aboriginal people, Foundation Day is not considered a day to be recognised or celebrated. For them, it is a day that is about their colonisation, and for many of them it became the beginning of what has been a tragic history of suffering, dispossession and even massacres within this state.

It would be fair to say that the effects of colonisation for many Aboriginal Australians, even generations later, is very much still being felt today. It needs to be part of the reconciliation process. I am not under any delusions; I

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recognise that simply changing the name of Foundation Day will not mean that suddenly we will have achieved reconciliation and that somehow, magically, we will have dealt with the gross injustices that were committed against our first Australians in the past. But it is at least one tiny step of recognition towards hopefully embracing a more inclusive future, and I think that is very important. Obviously, we must recognise that we still need to address major disadvantage for Aboriginal Australians in particular, whether it be life expectancy, disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal people languishing in jails, or poverty and health issues. We still have a long way to go, because the long-term effects of colonisation have not been positive. It is important that we remember and recognise that and that we do not get caught up with feeling too proud about how colonisation in this state has impacted on everybody.

Having said that, I am not trying to diminish Western Australia's history or legacy. I recognise that some people have been concerned that changing the name will somehow detract from the positive things that people feel about their history. I am from a family that goes back many generations in Western Australia. My ancestors were some of the key colonisers of Western Australia. In fact, James Brittain, who is my great-great-grandfather, built the Barracks Arch, the old Cloisters building and a range of other landmarks. Interestingly, I have found over the years that I am inadvertently related to a lot of people in Western Australia. I would not be surprised to find that some members in this chamber, if they went through their family history, are probably related to me—but only if they are lucky!

I have taken a great interest in my background and that of my ancestors—the people who helped build Perth into what it has become today. So I am not trying to take that away. I also think it is important that we have an opportunity to celebrate that Western Australia has moved beyond European colonisation and that we have become a much broader and inclusive community. That is something that I celebrate. I think that is really positive. Time and again when people have talked about this issue, it has been said that Western Australia is now represented by 200 different nationalities, 170 languages and 100 faiths. I think that is a wonderful thing; that is something that I really cherish. I like the fact that we live in a multicultural city. I like the fact that we have a diversity of food. I like the fact that we have a diversity of people and that we live together relatively harmoniously in this little part of the world. I think it is really positive that we move towards celebrating what we are becoming, at the same time as we try to ensure that we reconcile some of our dark history, which we need to acknowledge.

This bill will change only the name of a public holiday; it will not change the world. But I think sometimes even these small recognitions are a step forward. Hopefully, this is a step forward not only to being more inclusive of Aboriginal Western Australians, but also to not rejecting our history, but embracing what we have become and where we are going in the future.

HON WENDY DUNCAN (Mining and Pastoral — Parliamentary Secretary) [8.24 pm]: The National Party also supports the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. As we have heard tonight, the bill proposes to rename Foundation Day, which is observed annually on 1 June in Western Australia. As we have heard, the Premier in the previous government introduced the bill in May 2008, but it lapsed because of the last state election. Last year a member in the other house introduced a bill along the same lines.

Foundation Day was established to celebrate and recognise the first European settlement in Western Australia, which is the Swan River Colony, on 1 June 1829 by Captain James Stirling aboard the *Parmelia*. The British had created an army outpost at King George Sound in 1829; however, the decision to formally settle was not taken until further exploration. The Swan River settlement was decided upon in 1829. We certainly support the concept for changing the name of Foundation Day. It will broaden the meaning of the day. Although it will always celebrate the first white settlement in our state, it will also unite the millions of people who have made Western Australia their home and celebrate the diversity of our cultures and the beliefs that they represent.

As many members have recalled their roots, my mother's family were on the *Rockingham*, which foundered off the coast of Rockingham. There are stories in the family folklore of people camping on the beach with the grand piano that was salvaged. I am not sure that it belonged to my family, but I have heard stories of people sitting on the beach with all their worldly possessions while they waited for somewhere to settle. I am probably related to Hon Alison Xamon, because my family have been here since that time. They settled in the Avon Valley and were amongst the early farmers in that area.

We often talk about Captain Stirling and about Mrs Dance cutting down the first tree at the site of the town hall, so our celebrations of Foundation Day have been very Swan River-centric. In fact, it was interesting to hear Hon Alison Xamon say how proud she is that we are now a multicultural city. I am sorry, but I have to take exception to that—we are actually a multicultural state. That is what we are really proud of. Not only will this change in name take the focus away from the Swan River and our first settlers, but also it will enable us to broaden our

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focus to the whole of Western Australia and how proud we are to be Western Australians and how glad we are to have the opportunity to celebrate being Western Australians. As has been mentioned by previous speakers, it will also give us the opportunity to celebrate the history of our Aboriginal peoples who have called this state home for more than 40 000 years. At the time of European settlement, they had a population of between 100 000 and 200 000 people comprising Nyoongah, Yamatji, Wongatha and Ngadju peoples, to name just a few. Even though changing the name of Foundation Day may seem to be trivial, it is very important to enable us to celebrate Western Australia's rich history, our diverse and wonderful state and the cultures of not only its original peoples, but also those who have come to Western Australia to help make our state great. As a Kalgoorlie girl originally, I know how important the people who came to the goldfields are to our history and to the strength of our economy—the Italians, Greeks, Chinese —

Hon Kate Doust: The Irish.

Hon WENDY DUNCAN: Exactly; very definitely the Irish, and the list goes on. This will give us the opportunity to celebrate more than just Captain Stirling and more than Mrs Dance chopping down her tree; we can celebrate all the peoples, all the cultures and all the history that make Western Australia the wonderful state that it is today. The Nationals happily support this bill.

HON LINDA SAVAGE (East Metropolitan) [8.30 pm]: I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak in support of the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011 and commend the government for bringing the bill to Parliament. At its heart, this bill is a recognition that the state did not begin its history with the arrival of settlers from the other side of the world but has an Indigenous history going back tens of thousands years, long before the Europeans arrived here. That is specifically contained in paragraph C of the background of the bill, which states —

Foundation Day acknowledges our indigenous people as the original inhabitants and traditional custodians of the land and unites all who have made Western Australia their home, it is, 182 years later, now appropriate that Foundation Day be known as Western Australia Day.

The bill, and the change of name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day, serves to not only recognise the Indigenous people who were here long before the Europeans arrived, but also unite everyone who came to Western Australia and made it their home subsequent to the arrival that is marked by Foundation Day. As members have said, that includes a very diverse range of people. In many families such as mine, at least one parent has come here as a migrant. My father came from Belfast in Northern Ireland and settled in Western Australia when he was in his 20s. My mother, who grew up in Waroona, was a fifth-generation Australian. That is a not uncommon background for Western Australians.

For reasons that I will mention shortly, I became reacquainted recently with the history of Foundation Day, which I am sure I was taught at school but which I had mostly forgotten. Very briefly, that history is that on 1 June 1829, Captain Stirling and his party arrived at Garden Island, erected the necessary buildings to protect the stores and then on 18 June landed on the mainland at Rous Head. They formally published, both on the mainland and Garden Island, the Proclamation constituting His Majesty's settlement in Western Australia. In the Proclamation, Captain Stirling said that His Majesty's authority now applied over the colony and hence —

... all persons whom it may concern should obey all legal commands and regulations, as I may see fit from time to time to enact ...

Because I recently had to look at this history, I read the Proclamation made on 18 June 1829 by James Stirling, which is registered at the State Records Office of Western Australia. The Proclamation, which can be seen in its original handwritten form, has been printed out. Interestingly, I note that it has extremely long sentences, just like other legal documents and contracts used to have. In fact, over nearly two pages there are only about four sentences. I will not read it all, although it does make interesting reading. However, I will read a small amount of it because I think it says something about the times and where we have come from. The Proclamation states in part —

I do hereby give notice that if any Person or Persons shall be convicted of behaving in a fraudulent, cruel or felonious Manner towards the Aborigines of the Country, such Person or Persons will be liable to be prosecuted and tried for the Offence, as if the same had been committed against any other of His Majesty's Subjects ...

Of course, that is saying that the people who were described as the Aborigines of the country were not at that time considered differently from any other of His Majesty's subjects. It ends, "God save the King", and is signed by James Stirling, Lieutenant-Governor to the colony. After the Proclamation, as some members have said, was the formal ceremony held on 12 August, which was the King's birthday, and the cutting down of the tree to mark

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Foundation Day. I think it was because Mrs Stirling was pregnant and was unable to make the journey that Mrs Dance, who was the wife of the captain of HMS *Sulphur*, performed at the ceremony by cutting down a she-oak tree near to where the Perth Town Hall stands.

I became familiar with this history, which, as I said, I had mostly forgotten, because in 2008 I was part of the *Art in Bloom* exhibition held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. That event occurs every two years and is organised by the Friends of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. It is a major fundraiser for the gallery. Members who are aware of the exhibition will know that a broad section of people are asked to match with a painting they are assigned a design made of flowers and natural products and other props. As it happened, I was assigned the painting by George Pitt Morrison titled *The Foundation of Perth* to commemorate Foundation Day. This painting is held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and is a very valuable piece, as members can imagine. It is an oil-on-canvas painting by George Pitt Morrison that depicts the ceremony to found the Town of Perth on 12 August 1829. It was painted as part of the centenary celebrations in February 1929 and took George Pitt Morrison almost 18 months to research and paint. He studied a number of contemporary accounts of the ceremony and had access to photos of the people who were present. It is generally regarded as a historically accurate painting.

The official painting depicts the ceremony as being held on a small hill overlooking the Swan River. As no stones were readily available, it was decided to mark the occasion by the felling of a tree. As I mentioned, Mrs Helena Dance was invited to strike the first blow. Members who have seen the painting will know that it depicts her holding the axe as she is about to make the first cut. Other people in the work include Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling; Captain Charles Fremantle; Commander Mark John Currie; Captain Frederick Irwin; Captain William Dance; the Colonial Secretary, Peter Broun; Dr William Milligan; and Surveyor-General, Lieutenant John Septimus Roe. It is an enduring and important image. Although it was painted 100 years after the actual event, it is considered to be, as I said, an authentic record. I was paired with this painting and when I looked at it, I was struck by what a European scene it was in the sense that in the picture were soldiers wearing red, gentlemen—obviously they were the people I have just named—Mrs Dance wearing a white dress and a straw hat, two woodsmen and what appear to be policemen of the time. It was a thoroughly European group set in the Australian bush. What was very notable to me as I looked at the painting was that in the very foreground is a felled grass tree. I grew up calling it a black boy but it is now called a grass tree. It struck me that there was not a single Indigenous face depicted in the bush setting but there was a grass tree at the very centre of the painting. I am not for a moment suggesting that George Pitt Morrison put it there deliberately or was making a point, but it struck me. That was in 2008; the federal government had officially said sorry to Indigenous Australians some months before I was assigned this painting. As some members will recall, the delivery of that “sorry” was a very powerful and uplifting experience for many people. I think it really brought the nation together. It was a moment of empathy and generosity of spirit. I suppose it was a very important gesture of understanding that the “sorry”, as we knew, went far beyond our individual selves. It was not purely literal, of course; it meant that we were prepared to go beyond the literal in saying sorry. Many people I know were very moved by that.

As has been mentioned, some people could say that the changing of the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day is, in a sense, a token perhaps. I see it in the spirit of the “sorry” as something that is very important in our history and part of showing how we view ourselves and how, in retrospect, our view of history has changed. This painting, *The Foundation of Perth*, and my floral attempt to do something that reflected what was in it, was rather simple compared with some of the spectacular works that other people did because they were designers and florists. But, of course, as I said, it reacquainted me with this history. The next time I thought about it was when I first came into the Parliament, on the ground floor. If members do not know, there is a tapestry version of this painting next to the education office on the ground floor. That tapestry version was embroidered by the Country Women’s Association and presented to this Parliament some time ago. It does not say exactly when. It is quite a coincidence. I have often stopped and looked at it and been reminded of the years I did embroidery at school and stitches like “lazy daisy”. I think it is a nice touch to have it there—that the Country Women’s Association thought they would embroider and donate that tapestry.

As I said, I am very pleased to have had an opportunity to speak about this Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill; it is another step in our history. It extends the scope of celebrations, which will now be on Western Australia Day, in the sense that by removing the word “foundation”, it will more truly reflect and include everyone in Western Australia and what it means to be part of this state.

HON HELEN BULLOCK (Mining and Pastoral) [8.43 pm]: I will make very brief remarks on this Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill. Before I start, I would like to say that, as the opposition lead speaker has already expressed, we support this bill. I have been living in Western Australia for the past 21 years. In my short stay in

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this country, I have noticed that on a number of occasions, instead of accepting what happened in our history and learning from what we did wrong, we try to rewrite history. I just hope this is not one of those occasions.

Some years ago, late at night, I watched a foreign movie on SBS. It is a great channel; it shows lots of good movies. The movie was very meaningful, so I thought I would share the story with members in this chamber. I missed the start of the movie, but that does not matter. I think the story started with a young woman who had some personal issues, so she went to her parents' place in the countryside to try to sort things out. When she got there her parents were packing up and on the way out of the country because there was some uneasiness in the village. The young woman stayed in the beautiful two-storey country house alone. One day she went out for a walk and met a beggar who told her that he and his family had been kicked out by some rebels and they did not have a place to stay. The young woman took pity on him and brought him home and let him stay in the downstairs part of her parents' place. From then on, every time she got home from being out she would notice some extra things downstairs, such as a mattress and a few belongings to start with, then a stove and some cooking pots and pans and later on a curtain was hung around the mattress and a washing line was stretched across the hall with washing hanging from it. From the movie we can tell that the beggar was making himself at home and settling in.

One day the young woman came home and found some strangers, a woman and kids, with this beggar, and there were extra mattresses and so forth there. Presumably they belonged to the same family. The young woman tolerated the situation, only to find more strangers were moving in and settling in the downstairs area. The downstairs area was divided into many small living quarters for a number of families. Of course, all these different families were constantly fighting for more space. I think, eventually, they were thinking about going upstairs. I cannot remember the ending of the movie; I just want to say before I end that Australia is a very tolerant nation. In the past, it has bent over backwards to accommodate a lot of people's needs and demands. No other country in the world would do that.

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [8.48 pm]: I have been inspired to say a few words on this subject and to support the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill. In a sense, Foundation Day is a misnomer if, as the second reading speech suggests, it was the occasion of the first sighting of the coast of Western Australia by Captain Stirling's colonists and settlers in 1829. It really is not the appropriate name for the date of the foundation of the Swan River colony and all that flowed from it.

It seems to me that, while recognising the enormous contribution of those settlers who travelled so far from their homes in order to make a new life for themselves, renaming the day to Western Australia Day is entirely apt. It would be one of the few state or national days or anything of that ilk that does not reflect more accurately the nature and significance of that day. We have, for example, Australia Day, and other states have their other particular state days, but Foundation Day is one of those days that attracts confusion and generates some doubt about its significance. It is probably well overdue that the day be renamed to something that is more appropriate.

We have had a number of reflections on the past. Someone once said, "The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there." It seems to me very idle to go back and make judgements about the past. One could acknowledge that bad things have happened in the past, but one must appreciate the circumstances under which those things occurred, the manners of thinking and the philosophies of those days and accept that people thought differently and did things differently. We have had some debate over the past few days about adoption laws and how archaic, by our standards, they seem from only a matter of decades ago. Some of the things that were done in even the recent past would horrify us—do horrify us—and we think we know a lot better. Who knows, in 20 years people may look back on the things that we do here today, the laws we make today, and equally say, "How could they have been so misguided?"

The reality is that people in the past did things according to what they thought was right and appropriate and according to the standards that they had. It was interesting to hear Hon Linda Savage read the proclamation declaration and the attitudes that were held by the then first Governor of the colony and the attitude of the British Crown towards its indigenous inhabitants. It was actually quite a generous approach. It may not have been translated into appropriate action. People may have resiled from the high principles that were stated in it, but the principles were there, and we must give due credit to that.

It is idle also to complain and to feel guilty about an act of settlement and eventual colonisation. If we look at the scheme of how the world worked back in those days and has worked up until relatively recently, human history has been full of invasions, colonisations and displacements. It is said that during the 1940s and 1950s—indeed, during the early half of last century—the whole population of Europe was in motion, being displaced by one ethnic group or another. The fact that the effects on the Aboriginal people of this state have been so profound is

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because until colonisation, Australia had been relatively safe from the mass movements of human populations across our globe that continued until very recently.

Hon Helen Bullock, with her Chinese heritage, would appreciate that China was not one homogenous society. It had been invaded numerous times over the course of centuries. Europe had been invaded numerous times over the course of centuries. To treat the colonisation of Australia as some great crime is to set one's face against the imperatives of human history. If it had not been for the British colonising Australia, it would have been the French or, as it had been up until that time, people from perhaps Indonesia; I understand some Indians had managed to find a way over; the Dutch of course had touched upon these shores; the Chinese and so on.

The idea that somehow there ought to be this angst, this guilt, about the colonisation of Western Australia seems to me to be misguided, because it seems to suggest that there was some malice involved, rather than it being just the force of history. If it had not been colonised in 1829, it would have been colonised at some stage later. Indeed, in 1941 we had the Japanese looking at the northern coast. Although we know now in retrospect that it was of no particular attraction to them; if it had not been occupied, it would have been invaded and occupied as a naval base by perhaps the Japanese navy. We just need to be realistic about these things.

Having said all that, I entirely accept that there have been enormous injustices done to the Aboriginal people over periods of time, and those need to be redressed. They are a disadvantaged folk compared with the rest of the population of the state, but I sound a word of caution about feeling ashamed of our heritage.

I have a particular reason to be proud of the heritage of this state. Had it not been for the manner in which society had developed here, I would not be here today. My parents came over here after a conflict in which they had been pushed out of their homes. They came to a country that was stable, prosperous, tolerant and just, and I feel an enormous amount of gratitude to this country and to this state for the welcome that they received. That was back at a time when it was far less cosmopolitan than it is now and far less welcoming to people from Eastern Europe than it is now, yet they managed to make a home of it here. I feel very proud to be in this state and to be a citizen of this state.

Moving on from British settlement itself, the institutions and the manner of life that was established here are something that we can be justly proud of and celebrate on Western Australia Day. As I say, I do not have a problem with the need to correct injustices, but I strike a note of caution about feeling in any way ashamed of what happened back in 1829, because out of all the possible options, it was probably about the best one that could have arisen for Western Australia.

The achievements that this state has accomplished over the intervening centuries are something that all Western Australians can be proud of. I support the bill and the recognition that is now given to 1 June being Western Australia Day as opposed to simply being Foundation Day. It is no disrespect to those who are descended from the original settlers and their aspirations but a due recognition of what this day means for this state.

HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (Agricultural) [8.58 pm]: I rise to make a few observations about the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. Like all members who have spoken thus far, I am in total agreement with everything that people have said, so I will not keep the house for long. I certainly would like to make mention of the very point made by Hon Sue Ellery, who mentioned how symbolically important this particular process is. This is about symbolism. With that in mind, it is possibly appropriate for me to say that a recognition of the need for something like Western Australia Day, as opposed to Foundation Day, is probably a bit like the movement towards reconciliation in this country over, say, the past five or 10 years. Without that sort of recognition, it is difficult to imagine how we, perhaps in certain contexts, are going to move on.

I totally agree with the sentiments of Hon Michael Mischin. He said up-front that it is not an appropriate date. I think sometimes that we endeavour to rewrite history when it comes to this sort of thing. The reason I say that is, even though we talk about 1 June, 11 June or 12 August, when someone laid an axe into a tree, what are we really talking about? We are talking about the Swan River Colony. People have made mention of the fact that prior to that we had people coming from the north, from Indonesia, from China, from India and from the literally all around the world; the Dutch had cruised around the Australian coastline. Hon Michael Mischin also made mention of what has happened in other states. I put to members that one of the reasons I think Foundation Day is a misnomer is that in 1791 Vancouver visited and named King George III Sound. The Swan River Colony was established in 1829, yet on Christmas Day 1826, Frederickstown was proclaimed on behalf on the British government. Therefore, if we use the term "foundation", foundation only applies to the Swan River Colony; that is all it applies to. In that context, it is perhaps wrong to suggest the name Foundation Day. I do not think many members will stand and argue the contrary, but certainly Foundation Day is a total misnomer as far as I am concerned. Having said that, what is all the fuss about? I think the fuss is simply about the fact that over the last

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200 or so years we have failed to acknowledge the previous 40 000 to 60 000-plus years of Indigenous settlement in this country. I reiterate, of course, that sooner or later all of us, even if we want to go back 40 000 to 60 000 years or more, come from migrant stock of some description. To select a particular date and call it “Foundation Day” warrants some attention. I think Hon Alan Carpenter raised the issue, but I now give credit to the current government for coming to terms with it and endeavouring to change it. If we continue with Foundation Day, we are in essence acknowledging a sovereign power arriving here, putting a flag in the ground for good King George and claiming the land for Britain. In this day and age that is the sort of thing that I do not think too many Australians would acknowledge as appropriate. That is not to say that back in those particular days most people probably did not think it was not a fair and reasonable thing to do, but we have moved on from that situation. Western Australia Day is an attempt to get people involved—people of all races, religions, creeds, and ethnicity. It does not really matter whether they are Indigenous or living in Australia’s north, south, east or west; I suggest that we as a nation need to move forward. At the same time I acknowledge the fact that we need to recognise our past, but I suggest that to have something called Foundation Day is very much an anachronism. We need to be mindful of all aspects of our history. The only issue I really have is perhaps the selection of the date. I cannot think of another date that we might choose, because all we are really doing, if I am not mistaken, is replacing Foundation Day with Western Australia Day, and I think we are having it on the same date. As I said, I cannot think of any date more appropriate than the date that has been chosen, but I am sure that someone like Hon Ed Dermer, with his grasp of Australian history, may well be able to advise me otherwise.

Hon Ed Dermer: I just wondered, honourable member, what the founding date of the Legislative Council was and whether that might be appropriate!

Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM: Hon Ed Dermer may well have hit upon a very salient point! I do not know whether it would go down too well in the other chamber or with too many other people, but I am with him. On that point, I think that this legislation is a good move. I congratulate all those involved in putting this particular proposal together and, as I said, I see the symbolism as very important for our capacity as a society to move on. I think it adds to the reconciliation push that we have seen in the last five to 10 years, maybe even since 1967 or prior to that. I fully support this bill.

HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.05 pm]: I also rise to say a few words about the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. As is obviously the case, this bill renames Foundation Day to Western Australia Day and, as I think other members have said, this change is not insignificant. Some discussion has occurred about how we have come to the point of this bill and my recall is—I can be proven wrong on this—that when the Liberal Party was in opposition, the now Premier first introduced a bill into the other place. It obviously sat there, there was a change in government and then later, I think last year, the member for Perth introduced almost identical legislation with respect to this matter. Following that, discussion was had and we now have a bill that clearly has bipartisan support, which I think is a good thing. When we look at Foundation Day and the reasons for the change of name, I have to say that when I was a little girl, which I would like to think was not that long ago, but it seems to be getting further away, Foundation Day was an important part of my primary school calendar. I am sure it would have been the same for other members as well. I remember that we used to hold events and activities in the lead-up to the day: we dressed up as early settlers and we had heritage days and other activities. Over time these events appear to have diminished, so much so that we have reached a point at which many Western Australians do not really know a lot about Foundation Day; they know it only to be a public holiday in June. I suppose for this reason it is time to look at the day’s relevance and whether there is a need to do something more, and that is where we come to the bill before us. As the second reading speech states —

The time is right for change. It is timely to consider whether we can more effectively celebrate our origins and achievements. Western Australia is a mature, outward-looking state, with an increasingly significant role in our nation and region.

It goes on —

In 2011, we should reflect on Western Australia’s achievements and how we have worked together to build this remarkable state.

As mentioned in the second reading speech, changing the name of the day provides an opportunity for a much broader celebration within the Western Australian community, and certainly other members have spoken about this, therefore the day is not limited to the first European settlement. Of course, Australia is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world and Western Australia is the most multicultural state, with people from more than 200 different nationalities choosing to live, work and study here. Equally, the proposed day will

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acknowledge Indigenous Western Australians, and Hon Linda Savage referred to that background in the content of the bill and their long and significant history on this continent.

In supporting this bill I, like other members, want to make clear that I think it is still very important that as part of Western Australia Day we do not forget the history that is tied with its origins, and I am referring to Foundation Day. As the second reading speech states, it commemorates a single moment in time: 1 June 1829. Clearly, as has been discussed, there is some debate about that. If we read the various elements of our history, Foundation Day is seen as the day when our state's first free settlers completed their voyage to the site of the Swan River Colony aboard the *Parmelia* under the command of Captain James Stirling, albeit they did not set foot on shore. It is said that it was due to wintry conditions, but for whatever reason, they did not actually set foot on shore on 1 June. But I think outside of that it is important that we recognise the role that these and other early settlers made in the establishment of the colony. Indeed, it would be remiss of me as a member for the East Metropolitan Region if I did not impart a little history about the historic town of Guildford, where my electorate office is located opposite the historic Rose and Crown Hotel, which I think is the third oldest licensed hotel in Australia.

Guildford was one of three Western Australian towns established in 1829, the others being Fremantle and Perth. The town was named by Captain James Stirling after his wife's birthplace and his father-in-law's electorate in Surrey. It was clearly a place that Captain Stirling developed a very strong affinity with. A news article dated 8 February 2004 states, in part —

In 1827, before the Swan River colony had been established, he —

That is, Stirling —

travelled up river and standing on the site now occupied by the All Saints Church, he observed: 'Here then, on a high bank, we pitched our tent. The richness of the soil, the bright foliage of the shrubs, the majesty of the surrounding trees, the abrupt, red-coloured banks of the river occasionally seen, the view of the blue summits of the mountains from which we were not far distant, made the scenery round this spot as beautiful as anything of the kind I had ever witnessed'.

I think that scenery can well be seen even today.

I will also read an excerpt from a book by Dorothy Robinson, and I thank the Parliamentary Library staff, if they are listening, for finding this book for me at very short notice. The part that I want to read is a little long, but it goes through Guildford's heritage quite eloquently. We do not often get the chance to talk about these sorts of things, so I will take a minute to talk about Guildford. Dorothy Robinson was referring to decisions that were being made at the time about appropriate sites for the main settlement. She states —

So, why was the site for the capital selected so far away. It seems from Stirling's own letter that the site for Perth was not the first to be decided on; rather, the last. What Stirling sought was a site "sufficiently high on the River to afford easy communication between the Agriculturalists on the Upper Swan and the Commercial Interest at the Port ..." It was knowledge of the good land in the upper reaches of the Swan River, knowledge obtained during his exploration of the area in 1827, that prompted Stirling to consider the estuary of the Swan River as a site for a settlement. Stirling had in fact in 1827 chosen the area between the Swan and Helena Rivers as the site for a town—a natural choice because of the good clay loams of its hinterland and because of its nearness to the navigable Swan River.

Two years before the establishment of the Swan River Colony, two years before the selection of the site of Perth as the place for the capital, the decision was made to establish a town at what is now Guildford, the gateway to the Swan Valley. This is why the Swan Valley can lay claim to being "The Birthplace of Western Australia".

Some others will no doubt argue on that point —

So it was that, in the initial year of settlement of the Swan River Colony, 1829, three towns were established—Guildford as a river port and centre for the agricultural region, Fremantle as an ocean port and industrial centre, and Perth midway between the two as the capital and administrative centre.

When, in 1834, the Government decided that attempts to establish schools should be supported, three teachers were appointed at one and the same time, one for Perth, one for Fremantle, and one for Guildford.

Thus, from the very beginning of the founding of the Swan River Colony, the importance of the Swan Valley, with its outlet at Guildford, was recognised ...

...

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Guildford is situated near the head of the navigable portion of the Swan River. The Swan River to All Saints Church, Middle Swan, is a salt-water estuary, subject to tides as well as acting as a channel for runoff waters. The salt content of this tidal river meant that the early settlers could not use the water in the lower reaches to sustain crop growth during the long hot dry summers. Also, the combination of tides and heavy winter rains had led to flooding of the lowland regions and so to the loss of crops early grown on the river flood plains. The Swan Valley upstream, however, provided a more reliable source of agricultural land.

Guildford, because of its clay loam soils and its proximity to the navigable Swan River, was a natural choice for an early agricultural settlement. Captain Stirling, then Lieutenant-Governor, selected for his own use as a country resort and farm, a piece of land lying between the Swan and Helena Rivers. He named his estate “Woodbridge”, after his wife’s childhood home in England.

When the Avon Valley, beyond the Darling Range, was discovered in 1830, it was immediately opened for settlement, eventually to become one of the most important agricultural and pastoral regions in the Colony.

At first there was but one line of transport between Fremantle, Perth and Guildford—the river. Some roads were built, but they were not entirely satisfactory. In the early 1830’s, a road was made from Perth to Guildford on the right bank of the river, passing through Maylands, but for years the sandy ground made heavy going for the laden vehicles, so mostly it was river transport that was used ...

A road to Upper Swan connected to Guildford, turning north where Midland now stands. A road to York was completed in 1835 and to Toodyay in 1841, though at this stage these roads were little more than bush tracks. In the 1850’s, better roads were constructed with the aid of convicts who were brought from England to help develop the Colony.

Thus Guildford became the centre of a road network linking the agricultural areas via the river with Perth and Fremantle.

Until the 1880’s, Guildford was a flourishing market town and river port, with warehouses and wharves and many stores and hotels. Teamsters brought down loads of wheat and oats, hides, skins and tallow, and timber and sandalwood, and went back to the country loaded with clothes and clothing materials, stores, hardware and household goods, and implements for use on the farms.

Guildford’s importance as a regional centre declined with the construction of the State’s railway network and the consequent loss of river trade. Midland, just upstream from Guildford, developed as a trading and regional centre, based on railway activities.

My family has a very long and proud history in this region, particularly in the Midland area where my great-grandfather, Scottie Jamieson, was a local councillor for some 21 years and the mayor of what was then the Midland Junction Municipal Council in 1914.

Today there are many original examples of Guildford’s heritage. In and around Stirling Square, which many members I am sure know well, is the old gaol, the Guildford Mechanics Institute and the sugar gum trees that were planted in honour of Queen Victoria’s jubilee in 1897. There are historic homes in and around Guildford, such as Earlsferry, Daylesford House and Fairholme. Indeed, not too far away is Woodbridge House, which I have already mentioned. Although it is not the original house of Captain Stirling, it was built by Charles Harper who has particular significance to Guildford Grammar School. Of course, as Dorothy Robinson mentioned, there is Guildford Primary School, the oldest government-sponsored education institution still in operation in Western Australia, with its origins tracing back to 1833. The school has operated continuously since 1838 and still retains a number of heritage-listed buildings, some of which date back to, I think, 1870 or thereabouts.

It is important that this and other parts of our state’s history are not forgotten by a change in name to Western Australia Day. I am sure that it will not, but it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that it is not forgotten by either us or future generations. In saying this, though, by making this change today, it is also up to us to ensure that Western Australia Day is not simply seen as another public holiday. Rather, I like to think that it will open up new opportunities for all Western Australians, irrespective of background and however they came to be part of this wonderful state, to participate in events and activities that acknowledge our history, our state and the great and wonderful contribution that we make to this great country. I support the bill.

HON PHIL EDMAN (South Metropolitan) [9.19 pm]: In speaking to the Western Australia (Renaming) Bill 2011, I will touch briefly on the state’s history. On 1 June 1829, the *Parmelia* did not enter the Swan River, but anchored off the west of Garden Island because the crew had a lot of trouble trying to get into Cockburn Sound.

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It was Captain Charles Fremantle, arriving on HMS *Challenger* on 27 April 1829, who erected a flagpole, raised the Union Jack and claimed the whole of the west coast of Australia in the name of His Majesty. Unfortunately, our poor Governor, Captain Stirling, was stuck on the bank that we now call Parmelia Bank and after that had to disembark passengers and stores on Garden Island where they erected their tents and settled for some time. I obtained the book *James Stirling and the Birth of the Swan River Colony* from the Parliamentary Library—also at short notice—which records Captain Stirling’s words in a letter to one of his navy mates. It reads —

By my over confident pilotage the ship took ground in coming into the back-haven Sound & she thumped about on the bank for 18 hours, notwithstanding Charles Fremantle’s exertions & our own to get her off.

Captain Stirling had a lot of problems on 1 June 1829, even though he had been here a couple of years earlier and had a look around the Swan River after which he convinced the British government it would be a fantastic place for a penal-free colony. I was also amazed to read that Sir Thomas Peel was drawn to Western Australia by a land grant, and to discover that it was his only if he could get here by 1 November 1829. I will describe for members the approximate size of Sir Thomas Peel’s land grant as the area from Hon Simon O’Brien’s electorate office to Fremantle and down as far as Rockingham. Unfortunately, because the Swan River is winding and the way in which Captain Stirling sought to divide up the land did not quite work out mathematically, everyone who was promised land could not have land. Captain Stirling really needed Sir Thomas Peel to arrive late and forfeit his land grant, enabling Stirling to push back Peel’s land grant as far as Cockburn and as far south as Mandurah, which is exactly what happened. Unfortunately, Sir Thomas Peel was very depressed for some time after that had happened. Sir Thomas Peel is, I think, definitely a Western Australian hero and somebody I respect. They were all sailors and I respect the important part they all played in our history. On 17 June 1829, HMS *Sulphur* landed.

The happenings of 1 June were remarkable and in a letter to his brother Walter, Governor Stirling wrote —

... the night becoming stormy and a heavy swell setting in our situation became highly perilous. You may easily imagine what a night it was to me. I expected the ship to go to pieces and saw in that prospect my own total ruin, but, after eighteen hours of beating, at daylight she floated off and was brought into an anchorage inside of the Island.

That sounds horrific. It is almost like what happened on Saturday night and what Anna Bligh must have been thinking about the election in Queensland!

All that Captain Stirling saw on 1 June, Foundation Day, was the coast before landing off Rockingham on Garden Island. For me, the words “Foundation Day” do not reflect the true nature of the day and what it is about. There is a lot of history around that day in Western Australia and to rename the day to Western Australia Day is, I think, more fulfilling and more fitting, because of what happened not only on 1 June, but also in the rest of our wonderful history, of which every Western Australian should be proud.

HON ED DERMER (North Metropolitan) [9.24 pm]: I have very much enjoyed tonight’s debate on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. I was enjoying Hon Phil Edman’s contribution, although I think his reference to contemporary political events may have been a bit distracting. It is extraordinary to imagine that not very long ago in the context of human history people were risking their lives in a substantial way to sail the world in tiny wooden ships. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm referred to Albany, previously known as Frederickstown, and to the replica of the *Amity*, which is a very important reminder of these tiny ships in which people were able to traverse great oceans.

I support the bill because it is very important to have a day on which we remember our history and appreciate the foundations that were laid for our state. I think that we are very fortunate in the role played by Sir James Stirling in the British colonisation of Western Australia, which led, I think, to the successful development of Western Australia and to its solid foundations. But when we start to contemplate the history of our state, we realise that there are many points of significance, rather than one particular point. Reference was made to Aboriginal settlement and of course we cannot know the date on which Aboriginal settlement started; therefore that is not an option for choosing a particular date on which to celebrate our state’s point of origin. We heard reference made to the Dutch explorers, Hartog and de Vlamingh, and to William Dampier, who was an early English explorer in the seventeenth century. Finding a day on which to celebrate what we have achieved in Western Australia is very important and I think that 1 June is a very appropriate day.

My reference to the establishment of the Legislative Council was in response to being asked to guess at a suitable date. However, I think it would be very good to find out, and someone in the chamber may know, the actual date of the first sitting of the Legislative Council. One of the things that surprised me when I came to Parliament, and which I had not realised before, was that the Legislative Council, having been set up in

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1832, was formed so soon after the foundation of the colony in 1829. The need to establish a body to legislate and to consider law for the colony must have been self-evident to Governor Stirling and those around him at that very early stage. It would be very interesting to know the date when the Legislative Council first sat, as it is an important date in the evolutionary history of parliamentary democracy in Western Australia. It is a very important part of our history and I note that Mr Deputy President (Hon Michael Mischin) is reaching for the *Parliamentary Handbook*, which may be a good source of information. The other thing that I occasionally do in these circumstances is to telephone the Parliamentary Library to ask the staff to track down the information.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Michael Mischin): You have piqued my curiosity.

Hon ED DERMER: It is a very constructive debate and it is very interesting to contemplate the history of our state. By understanding history, we learn from history and can fully understand the success that has been achieved when we look about us in Western Australia today. And with hard work from the Legislative Council, I expect that we will continue to experience further success in the future—albeit I am sure the Legislative Assembly will play a role in that as well. It was very interesting to listen to Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm's comments about the establishment of Frederickstown on, was it, Christmas day in 1826; that is, 2.5 years prior to the establishment of the Swan River Colony in June 1829. To make it absolutely clear, Mr Deputy President, I think that 1 June is a very suitable day for Western Australia Day, and when we have to choose one point in our very interesting history that is certainly a very appropriate day.

I like to remember the lead-up to the sesquicentenary celebrations in 1979 of the foundation of the Swan River Colony, which was a matter of enormous celebration in Western Australia. There was a phenomenon of muzzle-loaded musket firing, with people dressing up in period costumes and shooting volleys from these muskets around the place. I remember street parties near my home at the time at which people were celebrating. As the whole state became more and more excited, Rolf Harris, the boy from Bassendean, came for this special Western Australian occasion. This was all leading up to 1979 to celebrate the sesquicentenary. Albany endeavoured to pre-empt it all by saying that the real foundation was three years earlier, and it had its celebrations in 1976.

Hon Kate Doust interjected.

Hon ED DERMER: It is interesting, because I enjoy my visits to Albany. I find it fascinating. I find it very poignant to consider that King George Sound was the launching point for the Australian Imperial Force in its contribution to the Allied war effort in World War I. I find the Princess Royal Fortress fascinating. I referred earlier to the *Amity*, and I think it is the museum attached to the *Amity* that refers to the Frederickstown settlement in 1826. The reason I argue that 1 June is a more appropriate date than Christmas Day in 1826 to have Western Australia Day is that what happened in Frederickstown, as I understand it, was not the founding of a new colony that evolved into our state, but a military outpost from the colony of New South Wales that I understand left from what is now South Australia, which at the time, if I have it correct, would have been part of the colony of New South Wales, because it was prior to the establishment of the South Australian colony. So, rather than Frederickstown, evolving into Albany, being the foundation of Western Australia, it was almost an incursion from New South Wales. But we will not let interstate rivalry impede our celebration of all that we have come to achieve in Western Australia. There were many points of origin and many points of significance. Maybe part of the great joy of being in Australia is that we cannot point to some date of war or revolution as our founding point, but there was a gradual evolution into the parliamentary democracy that keeps us all safe, an important foundation of which, I think, was 1 June 1829, and another important step not too far along was 1832 when this institution started.

However, to celebrate, we need to find a day. I think 1 June is the most appropriate day. The change in title from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day acknowledges that 1 June is extremely important, but other points along the way, both before and after, are similarly important in establishing what we have to enjoy today. For those reasons, I support the bill.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Michael Mischin): If anyone is interested, the first sitting of the Legislative Council was on 7 February 1832.

Hon ED DERMER: Thank you, Mr Deputy President.

HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral) [9.33 pm]: I would like to say a few words on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011, which will change the name of Foundation Day, on 5 June, to Western Australia Day. The time is right for change. I believe Foundation Day was recognised as arrival day—many other speakers have touched on that—commemorating the first European settlement on Western Australian land

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when the British established the Swan River Colony. Of course, in 1829 the *Parmelia* sailed out. I note that the *Parmelia* did not land, but those aboard sighted land, and that was on 1 June. Of course, that marked the end of their journey and the beginning of Foundation Day. By changing the name to Western Australia Day, we have moved on to recognise a day of celebration, and celebrating the state that we have become, with two million people. It is very much a multicultural state, a vibrant state, a state that is rich in resources, a state that punches well above its weight and a state that produces over 40 per cent of the nation's export income.

Our multicultural society was probably the first in Australia. It was brought about by the gold rush in Halls Creek in the 1890s, and, of course, in the goldfields also. There was also the pearling industry in the north, at Broome and Shark Bay. Of course, during and after the Second World War, many Dutch people came to Western Australia from Java and other areas in the East Indies. Broome was probably the first multicultural town. There we have Malays, Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos, as well as Australian Aboriginals and Europeans, or a mix of these. Shinju Matsuri is the Festival of the Pearl that is celebrated every year in Broome. Some years ago I was a guest speaker invited to speak to some 1 500 people who had gathered at the event. Each year they bring in one of those nationalities to celebrate that festival, and that particular year it was people from the Philippines. It was when I looked at the Filipinos playing their musical instruments that I noticed in the crowd the large influence that the Filipinos have had over the people of Broome. It was quite amazing. I had not even realised that they had had so much effect on that multicultural society.

Of course, this has brought about many good things. Our food culture is very varied and diverse. We have benefited from the culinary expertise that has come from the Greeks, the Italians, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Dutch and, of course, the Vietnamese and the Indians. These people have all added to the culture that we have in this state today. Western Australia Day is a day to be proud of in our state. I have been reminded of something. In the early 1980s I was travelling in Switzerland, and I was in a little town called Interlaken. It was 4 July, Independence Day. The place was full of Americans celebrating that day, with their flags and their national anthem being played in the street et cetera. That was their national day, and I know that our Australia Day is being celebrated more and more. Maybe we could work on Western Australia Day becoming a state independence day. Maybe we could keep all our GST then!

Western Australia Day is, of course, a public holiday. It should be set aside as a time for us to pause and think how lucky we are. It is a day to celebrate and cherish this great state of ours, and to realise how fortunate we are to have so much to celebrate. It is a day to ponder the pioneers of the state; that is, the people who discovered the resources—the oil and gas, the gold and nickel—and established the mining industry, the agricultural industry and the pastoral industry. We should celebrate the people who put all that together to make us what we are today.

I commend this bill. I believe we have moved on. As Hon Donna Faragher said, it is very important that we remember our past and our history. However, we need to take it a step further so that we can celebrate that. I support the bill.

HON BRIAN ELLIS (Agricultural) [9.38 pm]: I decided to say a few words tonight on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011, as have many other members. Obviously, it is quite clear that the house supports this bill and the reason for changing the name. In this state, we have a lot to celebrate and a lot to be grateful for. It makes sense that we are now looking at celebrating Western Australia Day instead of Foundation Day. Foundation Day, even though important, celebrates a single moment in time. Western Australia has developed so much more since then. As many members have said, with all the different nationalities, this state probably now has representatives from just about every country in the world. As I said before, there is a lot to be grateful for because, if it were not for this state at present, the rest of the country would be having a rough time. We can all be proud to be part of the contribution that this state makes.

This bill is of symbolic importance more than anything else. The whole point of renaming Foundation Day is to acknowledge the history of this state. It reflects on the emerging maturity of Western Australians in recognising the shared history of the state rather than the implied commencement of the settlement at the time of the arrival of the British colonists. It is more inclusive of Western Australians who do not have a British background. Like many other members who have spoken tonight, I have ancestors who came from different parts of the world. I have Welsh heritage on my grandfather's side and German heritage on my grandmother's side. My German ancestors landed in South Australia and thought there were better opportunities in Western Australia, just as we see happening now with a lot of people from other states coming to Western Australia to take up the opportunities in this state. My ancestors travelled to the Agricultural Region that I represent and settled in Wongan Hills, where they established a service station and a power station. They moved on to develop farming practices and a farming industry in that region. That is just a small contribution by my family, as many other members spoke about their family history.

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People have spoken about the different nationalities in Western Australia. The renaming of Foundation Day will embrace the contribution of migrants from Europe and Asia who have helped to make this state economically strong, especially in remote areas where they have been part of the pioneering workforce from the early gold rush to the emerging iron ore industry and the construction of the Ord River project.

I want to quickly touch on the Italian contribution in particular. I refer again to my father's time on the farm. During the Second World War, we had Italian prisoners of war on the farm. I think they quite enjoyed being on the farm; they did not really want to be in the war scene. They were quite happy to be in Western Australia, contributing to the development of this state. They were very skilled in many things. My father told me that they were very skilled in something that he did not know much about until there was an explosion in the camp of these Italian prisoners of war. They built a distillery and developed whiskey. They also enjoyed smoking quite a bit. The combination did not fit together very well, as we found out one night when the front door of the camp was blown out. That particular experiment did not go well. A lot of the Italian prisoners of war did not go back to their country after the war; they stayed on to help develop the farming industry in the Agricultural Region. Some may have gone on to improve their skills in the distillery business, but I am not sure of that. It was quite a common practice during those times. They were part of the development of the state, but they also became part of the families in the Agricultural Region at the time. Many went on to develop farms in the region and their descendants are still farming there now.

As someone said, sometimes a simple change of name can make a profound change of historic understanding. It also can offer a new way forward. This is one of those times. I support the bill with pleasure.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.