

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

WESTERN AUSTRALIA DAY (RENAMING) BILL 2011

Second Reading

Resumed from 30 November 2011.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [7.03 pm]: I rise to make a few remarks on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011 to rename Foundation Day as Western Australia Day. I note that this was probably the major commitment of the Liberal Party in opposition prior to coming to government, and I am pleased to see that the Premier is delivering on his commitment to change the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day. I cannot recall whether it was one of the 100-day plan promises. The Premier is shaking his head. No doubt it took some careful drafting to remove from the relevant acts the name Foundation Day and replace it with Western Australia Day and to get it to this point. I am pleased to see come to fruition three and a half years of careful consideration with, no doubt, Robert Cock, QC, working around the clock to ensure that this piece of legislation reached this point at which we can now change the name from “foundation” to “Western Australia”! We will now change the name forever more so that future generations of Western Australians can refer to what was once Foundation Day as Western Australia Day. The reasoning behind this change is to make the day more inclusive and to perhaps recognise the future rather than the past. We support that sentiment of the legislation and are of a mind to vote for it. I note that the members for Victoria Park and Perth have both taken up this cause with gusto in the past couple of years. This legislation has three fathers—or perhaps one great-great-grandfather on the other side and two grandfathers on this side!

Mr C.J. Barnett: Perhaps a statesman and two boys!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope the Hansard reporter got that; the Premier said, “A statesman and two boys”. Obviously the member for Perth is the statesman! The member for Perth is a well-known statesman in this house and is no doubt the statesman of this debate. He is not here tonight. He is obviously emotional about this change and was unable to collect himself sufficiently to be here for this enormous event to change the name Foundation Day to Western Australia Day! However, members have commented on this issue in the past and believe that it is appropriate to make this change to reflect the future rather than the past. If there were any negative connotations surrounding the word “foundation”, particularly for Indigenous Australians, it is good to put those connotations in the past. If changing the name to Western Australia Day achieves that, that is a good thing and I do not think many Western Australians would disagree with the words “Western Australia” being used in the name of, in effect, our state day.

The day commemorates the first sighting of the coast of Western Australia by Captain Stirling in 1829—I think it was 1 June, if I recall. I understand that he did not come ashore until 2 June but that his ship sighted the coast the day before. It probably anchored offshore. In those days, they would not have wanted to come near the coast in the night-time. Captain Stirling stepped ashore the next day. Therefore this day commemorates the first sighting. My recollection also is that Captain Fremantle, who was in the lead ship ahead of Captain Stirling’s ship—I think Captain Stirling’s ship was called the *Parmelia* and Captain Fremantle was in HMS *Success*, or vice versa—arrived a couple of days before Captain Stirling. Bear in mind that I did not go to school in this state, so I have read about this more recently than others. He may have been here a little earlier to make camp and prepare for Captain Stirling’s arrival. They sighted the coast and it was decided that that day would be considered Foundation Day.

Mr C.J. Barnett: They went to Garden Island too, as you are aware.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do not worry, Premier, I am familiar with the history of Garden Island, considering it is in my electorate. Its place in Western Australian and Australian history is quite important. I will get to that in a moment.

Mr P. Papalia: Premier, don’t get him started on Garden Island!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, do not get me started on Garden Island!

It is anomalous that Foundation Day was set on the day prior to the day Captain Stirling arrived and was based on the day of his sighting of the coast. That is slightly unusual. As we know, Australia Day is when the flag was raised in Sydney Cove, and those sorts of days ordinarily reflect that type of occasion. However, on this occasion it is a different arrangement. In any event, that is how the day’s name came about. As I said, if it has any adverse connotations for anyone, repairing it is not a bad initiative on the part of the government, even though it is probably fair to say that this is not the most important bill that we will deal with.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

This bill also calls into question the interesting history of this state. As we know, the state's Indigenous history goes back more than 40 000 years. The role Aboriginal people played in looking after the land and taking care of the country was very important and they have a long and important history with this land. Of course, Foundation Day actually recognises the day the place was sighted immediately prior to settlement by Captain Stirling. I suppose it does not reflect the entirety of European settlement in Western Australia, and in that it is a little unusual. Of course, the first settlement was in Albany by Major Lockyer. I am a little rusty on that bit of history, but Major Lockyer set up the King George Sound settlement in 1826 with a little band of army officers and soldiers. That was when Western Australia was still part of New South Wales, so it has not received the same recognition as the settlement of the Swan River Colony by Captain Stirling. There is an ongoing friendly argument between Albany and Garden Island about the first European settlement of Western Australia. Factually, we would have to say that the first European settlement was in Albany. I suppose the first official settlement and the establishment of the colony of Western Australia was undertaken by Captain Stirling when he set up the settlement at Cliff Head on Garden Island in 1829. Of course, Captain Stirling had arrived in 1827 to survey the area and then went back and received the commission and approval to establish a colony in 1829. The first settlement was established in June on Garden Island and then, three or four months later, he moved across to establish what is now Perth. If my recollection serves me correctly, Mrs Dance cut down the tree on the site of the now town hall and the settlement of Perth was established. Here we are today as a consequence of that.

I think it is interesting to note that Captain Stirling's first settlement was on Garden Island. There are still some remnants of that settlement, including a well that was dug perhaps 100 or 150 metres inland from the ocean at Cliff Head. The well is quite deep. I recently encouraged the captain of the base to do an archaeological dig of the well. As we know, over time wells fill in and so forth. I suspect that he would find a lot of Coke cans and beer bottles and the like before he got to anything truly archaeological, but I personally think it would be an interesting little escapade to see if there is anything at the bottom of that well. As we know, artefacts get lost in places like that. It would be an interesting thing to do. Along with the well, there are remnants of the foundations of Captain Stirling's house, which sit immediately alongside Cliff Head perhaps 20 metres inland. Captain Stirling's first home was a small dwelling of canvas construction. It was the most regal, if members like, of the dwellings that were established at Cliff Head in 1829. The settlement was quite substantial in those early days. They established a little town and then they conducted some agriculture on the site in order to support themselves. They had three ships, the *Parmelia*, the *Success* and the *Sulphur*—I may have those names wrong—anchored off the coast whilst they settled the northern end of the island. They sent a lookout every day to the top of the highest point of Garden Island, which I think is called Mount Moke. Every day a soldier or sailor was detailed to be the lookout in case a French fleet approached. They had to be aware of any approach by a French fleet because relations between France and Britain at that time were not good. There was always some trepidation or nervousness about the French. They were worried that a French fleet might approach, so a sailor went to the top of the nearest mountain, Mount Moke—they called it a mountain but it is really a small hillock—and was detailed to keep an eye out. He had a signal fire ready in case a French fleet approached the settlement, which would enable the settlement to prepare for battle.

The most interesting point about the settlement was that it was the first free European settlement in Australia. All the others were convict settlements—these were free settlers. They arrived voluntarily in order to establish a new life in Western Australia. The first free European settlement of Australia was established at the northern end of Garden Island in what is now the City of Rockingham and the electorate of Rockingham. That is a quite significant piece of Australian history that I think is probably lost—no-one really knows about it. It is a quite significant fact in the long and interesting history of our country. It was established there. As I said, the settlers moved across to the mainland some three or four months later and the settlement was largely forgotten. That was until 1833 or 1834 when a group of sailors, having had a few drinks, decided to row across and have a party and proceeded to burn down the old settlement established there by Captain Stirling. Sailors today would not do that, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr J.M. Francis)! They burnt down the settlement that was established by Captain Stirling. They rowed across there, burnt it down, had an intoxicated party and then rowed back to the mainland. A history of intoxicated boating has been around for a long time in this state!

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Intoxicated what?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Boating. Their escapades were quite an interesting little segue. Today, there are really only two things that can be observed of that old settlement—the well and the foundations. If one looks closely in the bush, one can see a few of the foundations of Captain Stirling's house. Of course, it was commemorated in 1979 during celebrations for the 150th anniversary of settlement. Sir Charles Court established a bit of a monument at Cliff Head to recognise the role and so forth of that site. As I recall, there was a diving expedition to where one of Captain Stirling's ships ran aground near Carnac Island. The entire crew of one of the ships had

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

to go to Carnac Island for four or five days before being rescued. There was a diving expedition to the site of the wreck. I think the sailors had thrown over, as you do, lots of heavy material—perhaps cannons and so forth—and there was a dive site in effect of the wreckage of one of the ships. I think that dive expedition occurred in the 1960s. That is another remnant of that first settlement at the northern end of Garden Island. It was the first official free settlement of Australia and was in effect the establishment of the colony of Western Australia. It occurred on Garden Island, which is an interesting part of our state's history.

In terms of the rest of the bill, I think that on balance it is a reasonable thing to do. I support the government doing it. However, it does bring to mind other things that we should commemorate in this state. I want to talk about something that is being done in other places. Every year we have Father's Day and Mother's Day. They are important events on the social calendar. Everyone treats them very, very seriously. Whilst I do not live near my parents, I always make the point of phoning my father and mother every Father's Day and Mother's Day to thank and acknowledge them for their role in my life. My family also always makes a point of visiting my wife's parents, who live nearby, to acknowledge the role that parents play in our society. That is very important. It is very important to acknowledge your parents and everything they have done for you over the years. Fortunately, my children are in the mode, perhaps under sufferance, to acknowledge their mother and father on the respective days. I am brought home little things they have made at school and so forth. It occurs perhaps worldwide these days, but it is certainly a wonderful Australian celebration to acknowledge the role of parents in our society. New South Wales and Queensland have created a day called Grandparents Day. It was gazetted by the New South Wales Liberal Premier, Barry O'Farrell, this year. The last Sunday in October is called Grandparents Day. In effect, it is the same as Mother's Day or Father's Day. Of course, grandparents, by definition, nearly always, but not always, are mothers or fathers. Grandparents naturally receive some of the enjoyment, fun and acknowledgement of Mother's Day or Father's Day, but, of course, grandparents have an additional role to being a mother or father, and that is being the grandparent of the grandchildren. Therefore, in New South Wales they acknowledged that by creating a day called Grandparents Day on the last Sunday in October. It received some sort of gazettal. I think an act of Parliament was passed unanimously by the New South Wales Parliament, and that legislation was put in place. Its function is to acknowledge the role of grandparents in assisting their grandchildren and helping with advice and guidance, with all the love and attention that grandparents give to grandchildren, but also to acknowledge the increasing phenomenon that we have talked about in this place before of grandparents being grandfamilies. Many grandparents are grandfamilies. In effect, grandparents are often now, to a degree, the primary carers of children. Their children may have passed away; their children may be incapable of providing the necessary care. These days, their children may have a lifestyle whereby work pressures and the like mean that they are fly in, fly out workers or serve in the military—they are away a lot. We have literally tens of thousands of families in this state in that position whereby grandparents are now increasingly assuming the role of not only parents, but also parents to the grandchildren.

We see this all over the state. I was at the Warnbro aquatic centre on Sunday. I took my children down there for a swim. Some grandparents were there. As members know, kids can be very feisty in the water, and it can be quite painful. Grandparents who were significantly older than I were doing the same thing I was doing while they were looking after their grandkids. I thought to myself, "My goodness; on a Sunday afternoon, here are these people who are in their 70s and they are being pummelled in the water by young children. It can't be the most enjoyable way to spend an afternoon!" However, at the same time, there they were, through their familial connection, their love and affection and the obligation they feel to their grandkids, doing all that, with these kids climbing all over them, bruising them and so forth. I thought that there was no better demonstration of the role that grandparents play with their grandchildren. So New South Wales created a day on which they acknowledge that. However, it is actually built upon an international movement. In the United States, it started because of a woman by the name of Marian McQuade of Oak Hill, West Virginia. She decided in the 1970s to start petitioning her local senators, representatives and so forth to take up the concept of grandparents day, basically to recognise older Americans. She started petitioning various politicians, and in particular one quite famous politician, Senator Robert Byrd. He was quite a famous Democratic, I think, senator in the United States.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Bob Carr mentioned him.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thought he said the other day that he was going to be Strom Thurmond.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: No; he said Robert Byrd.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He may have started with Robert Byrd but he said he is going to become a Strom Thurmond and stay around until he is 100 years old.

She petitioned Robert Byrd and did not get very far. In 1973, the concept of grandparents day was introduced into the Senate. It did not go very far; it lapsed. They have different procedures from what we have here.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 20 March 2012]

p890c-913a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Colin Barnett

Because it lapsed, she then went around each of the states. Within three years, 43 states had proclaimed Grandparents Day—43 states around the United States had proclaimed this idea of acknowledging older Americans. This was in 1977.

Then another senator, Senator Jennings Randolph—they have wonderful names over there—a Democrat from West Virginia, decided to reintroduce a resolution to the Senate. On 3 August 1978, then President Jimmy Carter signed the proclamation. I have a copy of the proclamation with me, and I will read it to the house because I think it encapsulates what I am talking about better than anything else that we could think of. It is headed “Jimmy Carter: XXXIX President of the United States: 1977–1981: Proclamation 4679—National Grandparents Day”, and states —

As we seek to strengthen the enduring values of the family, it is appropriate that we honor our grandparents.

Grandparents are our continuing tie to the near-past, to the events and beliefs and experiences that so strongly affect our lives and the world around us. Whether they are our own or surrogate grandparents who fill some of the gaps in our mobile society, our senior generation also provides our society a link to our national heritage and traditions.

We all know grandparents whose values transcend passing fads and pressures, and who possess the wisdom of distilled pain and joy. Because they are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations.

The Congress, by joint resolution ... has authorized and requested the President to designate the first Sunday of September following Labor Day of each year as National Grandparents Day.

Now, Therefore, I, Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, September 9, 1979 and the first Sunday following Labor Day in each succeeding year as “National Grandparents Day.”

I urge officials of Government at the national, State, and local levels, and of voluntary organizations to plan appropriate activities that recognize the importance and the worth of the 17 million grandparents in our nation. I urge all Americans to take the time to honor their own grandparents or those in their community.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

That was signed by Jimmy Carter, President of the United States. That sets out why the Americans did it. I thought it was a good idea. It is not the hardest thing in the world to do. A bill similar to the one we are dealing with could be introduced, and the last Sunday in October could be proclaimed as grandparents day to acknowledge the contribution of grandparents. We could create a movement around the state whereby on that day we have another set of family events and the like to honour grandparents, not just in their role as parents, but also in their role as grandparents to grandchildren. New South Wales has done it, Queensland has done it and the United States has done it. I will quote a few other countries that have done it. They are Canada, Estonia, France, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom and, as I said, the United States. So it has become a bit of an international movement to acknowledge the role of grandparents and grandfamilies.

One interesting nuance to what happened in New South Wales is that they created what they call grandparents ambassadors. I had never heard of some of the people from that state who were made grandparents ambassadors, but I had heard of one couple. People will know the names, or at least one of the names, of the ambassadors I am going to refer to: John and Colleen Fahey. John Fahey was the Premier of New South Wales, and he also became federal finance minister in the first Howard government. I think he left Parliament some time in the late 1990s as a consequence of lung cancer. However, he was quite a popular politician. He lost office by one seat, as I recall, in 1995, to Bob Carr. I will quote this piece, which is quite moving —

John and Colleen Fahey live in Bowral where they have been caring for their two grandchildren, Amber, 12 and Campbell, 8. This arrangement became permanent when their daughter, Tiffany, died in a car crash in Christmas 2006.

John spent about 18 years in the State and Commonwealth parliaments, including as Premier of NSW from 1992–95.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

Obviously, John Fahey is one of those grandparents who is now a parent. I did not know that that had occurred to him. He graciously took on the role, for the New South Wales government, of one of the ambassadors for grandparents and older Australians in New South Wales, and I thought that was a good thing to do. I suggest to the house that we do something similar. We should find some Western Australians who could take on that role of ambassador. I would like to suggest Bob Kucera. Despite the fact that he is a candidate—as of last night, he is now a candidate—I have never seen someone with such enthusiasm for older Western Australians. He has become involved in the Council on the Ageing and the like. He is a staunch defender of older Western Australians and their role in our society, and he is also a grandparent to a number of grandchildren. He is the sort of person who, in the mould of John Fahey, would be a good ambassador to take up this cause. I know he is very popular with older people because of the enthusiasm with which he has taken on his past and current roles and will take on his future roles.

That is a proposition for the Premier and the government. We should acknowledge grandparents and older Western Australians in this way. That is an idea that the Premier might like to take up. If he would like to introduce another bill along the lines of this one—perhaps even a carbon copy of what has been done in New South Wales—that would be a good thing. However, if the Premier chooses not to do that before March next year, that is certainly something we would do. If we are elected, we will take up this concept. I think it would be worthwhile for many families around Western Australia to acknowledge the role of grandparents, particularly those who look after their grandchildren. That is certainly something that we will take to the election as one of our commitments to the people of Western Australia.

Having said all that, we support this legislation, but obviously we think other issues can be taken up that would make a bigger difference for Western Australian families.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [7.30 pm]: I would like to make a few comments about the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011, which, as the Leader of the Opposition has highlighted, proposes to reshape the focus of Foundation Day to become Western Australia Day. I am sure that all members of the house understand the historical aspects of Foundation Day. I agree that we are creating, by a renaming, a day that is far more reflective of our diverse population and, indeed, the diverse history of the nation, which, as we know, goes back thousands of years. I support the thrust of the bill to modernise and reflect on the increased diversity of our state. In the second reading speech, the Premier mentioned the increased diversity of our population—a population which now includes some 200 different nationalities in which 170 languages are heard and more than 100 faiths are practised.

One of the important things about this renaming is the inclusion of every person who is Western Australian. It is really important that in renaming Foundation Day, the whole process acknowledges the contributions of our Indigenous people to our state's cultural history, to our economy and, indeed, to the spirit that makes us all Western Australians. I am sure that this happens and is happening throughout all communities in our state, but I can talk about my community in particular.

I am very proud of the Indigenous history of the Peel region and Mandurah in particular. I also acknowledge the tremendous spirit of cooperation and the forging of community partnerships that has occurred under the guidance of a number of community elders in the Peel region. Some of them of course are deceased, but I talk of respected elders such as the late Frank Nannup, the late Joe Walley and the late Theo Kearing. They are only some of the respected past elders of the region. There are many more I could have mentioned. There are also our valued local elders who are doing tremendous work in the region now, including Harry Nannup, Franklyn Nannup and George Walley, to name just some of them. One of the things I remember about the late Joe Walley and the late Frank Nannup in particular—it is also reflected in the people who currently represent our Indigenous community in the Peel—is that when these respected people spoke to the gatherings at the civic functions and formal and informal functions that I attended, they always spoke about the need to work and walk together. I have a great deal of respect for the way that the respected men and women from our Indigenous community have promoted working together.

I also acknowledge the work of some of our local governments in the region, particularly the ones that I know best, which have consciously worked to ensure that the local Indigenous communities are respected and valued as genuine partners in building community. I remember when I was a City of Mandurah councillor in the 1990s that the then federal Labor minister for multicultural interests and citizenship wrote to councillors suggesting that they might like to fly the Indigenous flag along with the Australian national symbol, the Australian flag, and the Western Australian flag. I remember the council receiving a report on this request and the officers' recommendation at the time was no recommendation; the officers did not want to make a recommendation. The Mandurah city council of the day embraced that. I give full credit to the former mayor, Keith Holmes, and the

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

current mayor, Paddi Creevey, and their councillors for working very hard to ensure that there are genuine partnerships with our Indigenous communities in the City of Mandurah and throughout the region.

As people drive into Mandurah from the freeway, they will see Mandjoogoordap Drive, the name of which reflects the Indigenous name for Mandurah. It is a very important acknowledgement of our traditional Indigenous history. If people enter the city from the east by crossing the Serpentine River from the Shire of Murray, they will see a sign that states “Nidja Boodja”, which means welcome to the city. It is also the case when people enter the city from the south along Old Coast Road and from the north along Mandurah Road or, as it was called, Fremantle road. I know that various key features are also acknowledged on Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway. These are very important.

One of the things I admire about George Walley, who is a respected Indigenous community member in the Mandurah–Peel area and has a teaching background, is that whenever he speaks to gatherings in the community, he tells the stories of the Indigenous meanings and experiences of various parts of the Peel. Whenever I am fortunate to be at events that George and others speak at, I always say to him that that little snippet of teaching to those people is important to continue to promote the culture and richness of our Indigenous culture in the Peel. I admire them.

One of the other very important aspects of this bill is how we brand Western Australia Day and the whole concept of celebrating Western Australia as a state. Previously, we had Foundation Day and associated events, which usually coincided with World Environment Day on a Friday, but we have not always celebrated WA Week in the same week as Foundation Day. I understand that we traditionally celebrated that in October as Proclamation Day. That is confusing. When we celebrate our state, our rich culture and Western Australians’ contributions to our community and ultimately to the fabric of our nation, we should indeed do it at a time when everyone is well aware of what we are celebrating. For example, previously the WA Citizen of the Year Awards were announced in October of each year. Earlier this evening I went onto their website and the citizenship awards will be in June in line with the celebration of what will now be Western Australia Day. I am assuming that Western Australia Day will be the central focus of WA Week and that the awards will be part of that prestigious week. June is not the best time to hold awards if we want outdoor activities, because it is in the middle of winter; however, I am sure we can get around that.

I want to pay tribute to past and present members of the Mandurah Historical Society who every year for decades have celebrated Foundation Day in Mandurah with a major function in the city and activities focussed around that day. Groups like that deserve our acknowledgement because they have promoted the spirit of celebration of Western Australian achievement. This new renaming to Western Australia Day will bring further opportunities. The Leader of the Opposition has flagged with this Parliament the concept of grandparents day in the future. I support him in his comments, but I must admit I remain a little concerned. Some members in this place have called me a bit of a prude or someone who is living in the past. Members would not think it when they look at me, but some have said that I may be a little right wing about these matters. I was with the Deputy Premier the other day at the turning of the sod at the new Mandurah Surf Life Saving Club. It is going to be fantastic! We were sitting in the little surf buggy. I said to the Deputy Premier that I would sit on the left, and he sat next to me on the right. He said, “I should be sitting there because I think I am more left than you are.” I said, “You might say that, as many of the people from my side say the same.” The Leader of the Opposition has promoted the possibility of grandparents day, and we all know the tremendous contribution that grandparents make. I am coming from an angle that I think the world has been flooded with so many days of celebration that it has become quite confusing. I do not even know what international year it is this year. We have international years for things and national years for things. Children now graduate from kindergarten!

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Just because you never graduated!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am very, very jealous of modern children who go to their balls in limousines and Hummers. In my day, in Northam, our ball was at the lesser hall. I can remember that we were driven there, but we paid our mate, who was an older fellow with a licence.

Dr A.D. Buti: Did you go in a horse and buggy?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, not quite.

Dr A.D. Buti: Why not?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The horse was lame!

Several members interjected.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am getting to my policy launch! We paid him 20 bucks. He lived around the corner from the Northam Town Hall. There were four of us and we said to this fellow, “Andy, can you drive us, one at a time, down to the town hall? We want you to get out, open the door for us and we will pay you 20 bucks.” It was the same 20 bucks! He would pull up, walk around and out we would come. In those days, of course, in Northam, poor as we were, all the fellows hired suits from this sort of carpet bagger who would have rolled into town the week before. I wore a beige suite with a plastic top hat. How pathetic is that? Can members imagine that appearing in *The West Australian* social pages? There I was in my beige suit with a plastic hat. Mr Acting Speaker is going to ask me how this is related to the bill. I am coming to that. Do members remember the old Sandover Medal-style ruffled hire shirt? Does the Minister for Education remember them? The ruffle went all the way down the shirt front. Mine was beige with a little chocolate brown. I do not know whether that was the gravy from the meal that night, but there was a chocolate and beige ruffle on the shirt. I am diverting, Mr Acting Speaker.

I also remember when the state celebrated its 150th anniversary. I was in year 9 at Northam Senior High School. One of the events to celebrate that day was a major bicycle ride from the goldfields all the way along Great Eastern Highway. The goldfields kids left on their racing bikes—they were probably more expensive than the Northam bikes—and they would collect kids as they went through each town along the way. I always remember—this is true—that my bike lost its chain about five kays out of Northam going up Springhill, where they have just built the new detention centre. It was a very embarrassing moment. We had been training for months. I still feel haunted by that; it scarred me for life. I had to go on the bus while my chain was fixed. I did not finish the full distance. I have told no one about that—not even my mum and dad. I will need a slight extension because I am on a roll here.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): A slight extension is granted.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I mean this honestly and seriously: one of the things that has always concerned me about acknowledging Western Australians’ achievements is that I do not believe we are supported and represented as we should be in the Australian honours system. I honestly believe that. One of the problems with the Australian honours system is that the opportunity for Western Australians to be recognised is not as great as is the case in the other states. It is a personal view. I have always believed that we should look closely at the weighting in the Australian honours system and at what happens.

Mr P. Papalia: Clive Palmer is a living treasure!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: This is one of the issues; look at the national living treasures concept.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, no; we should be looking at this seriously because we now have a national living treasures scheme. One of the problems with nominees—I will not mention his name, the member for Warnbro may have mentioned his name previously, but I will not —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Thank goodness he does not know me!

I think there is a real problem when people whose credentials for nomination towards those sorts of acknowledgements could be questionable. I do not want to single out anyone. Members on this side might like to, but I do not. However, I think that is a serious question to ask: What makes a living treasure? Do we have to be billionaires to make the list? Do we have to be a certain age? I do not know the answer to that question. I think it is a question that we should be very seriously asking about those things.

Mr M. McGowan: I think the member for Collie–Preston will be a living treasure.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As he said in some of his campaign ads during the last election, “I may have been beaten around the head a few times, but I care about my community.” Was that the line he used? It was a very good line. I wish I could use that one myself but I have not been in as many fights as has the member for Collie–Preston. He has been in plenty of fights.

I think we should seriously look at that and during the celebrations of WA Week we should list Western Australian honours. I have scrolled through the names of people who are on the list in my electorate, for example. They are fantastic people, but I ask the question: are we, as a state, well and truly represented in the national honours lists? If we are not, maybe we should create a formal state-based honours system as part of Western Australia Day and Western Australia Week.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

I would love to undertake a genuine research program—I do not have the time but I am sure it would be a good one to do—into the national honours scheme to see how many Western Australians have been acknowledged and, indeed, the categories and professions they come from. I have always been sceptical, for example, when members of Parliament receive honours. I do not care what side they are from. I have been very sceptical of people who have left this place or any other Parliament and been awarded honours. Many of them, particularly if they are part of the old superannuation scheme, will be continually paid by the public. That is the reality. I have always believed that national honours should go to Prime Ministers. I have no problem with that. Given that Prime Ministers have served this nation at the highest level, there is no question about that. Nor do I have a problem with people receiving an honour, such as Peter Costello, who have served national Parliaments for a significant period.

Mr M. McGowan: What about Whips?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I think there should be a special category for that sort of honour!

We need to look seriously at our awards system. I have to be honest with members: we are reaching a stage now at which everyone gets a sticker, everyone gets a gong, and everyone gets an award. The educationalists and the people who want to encourage young people will say that it is part of building self-esteem. But I seriously think we are going down the road of there being no failure: “You are not allowed to fail; we will just keep promoting you. Even though you can’t read, you’ll still get a sticker for opening the book.” I fear that is one of the ways we are going. Member may say I am someone from the 1950s who watched too much 1970s television, but I will tell members that I think there is some concern. We need only look at what is happening in our school system. We are wrapping our kids in cottonwool and giving them a sticker for doing basic tasks that they should be doing without reward, quite frankly. We are saying, “Good on you; you can do this; keep going.” But it is getting a bit ridiculous when kids are going to graduations at age five and six and to balls at the end of primary school and then we say that kids are growing up too quickly.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Primary school?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They are doing it now. Year 7 kids from schools in my electorate are being picked up by limos and being taken to a fancy restaurant somewhere in town or wherever.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They are only 11 and 12 years old. Maybe I am off with the roosters; I do not know, but I think there is a concern there.

With that sort of wayward contribution I think the proposal for Western Australian Day is a great option. Let us consolidate all the events that happen when we celebrate it. Let us not have five different events throughout the year that celebrate the same thing—that is, the celebration of Western Australia and its contribution and achievements—and let us make sure that everyone is involved, whether they are migrants or Indigenous people or people from interstate who have come to join our wonderful state because of the opportunities it provides for them and their families. I very strongly support the bill.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [7.57 pm]: I rise to speak to the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. I always like to rise after the member for Mandurah, “Sir David Templeman”, has spoken! I do enjoy listening to his speeches in this place. His knowledge of Nyoongah people down his way is always very impressive. This bill has strong bipartisan support. The Leader of the Opposition has indicated that the opposition will indeed support it. The member for Perth introduced a private member’s bill that was identical to the private member’s bill that the Premier introduced a number of years ago when he was in opposition. But the background to this bill is slightly different. It contains an extra paragraph, which I think is very important, bearing in mind how far the relationship between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people in Western Australia has come over the past 20 years in particular. That is paragraph C, which reads —

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,

I want to speak on that for a short period because I think that almost every member of Parliament, if not all members, accept the fact that Foundation Day no longer has meaning. It is no longer reflective of the history of Western Australia, our hopes or our aspirations. As the Premier pointed out in his second reading speech, Foundation Day needs to go further. We need to celebrate the incredible diversity of not just the people who live in Western Australia but also our history. Indeed, during the weekend just gone I found myself on Saturday morning speaking to the Rotary district conference in Kalgoorlie. I spent some time reflecting on Kalgoorlie and its importance to Western Australia. The discovery of gold at Kalgoorlie in the late 1800s really transformed Western Australia; it was a state with a very small population that had not grown for about 60 or 70 years, other

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

than through the import of convicts from about 1850. By the late 1860s 20 000 non-Aboriginal people lived in Western Australia of which half were convicts. The number of non-convicts stayed the same for quite a number of decades simply because we did not have an economy to speak of and all our debt was raised from London. We still relied on London to provide us with our revenue and money. Paddy Hannan found gold in 1893 just east of Kalgoorlie and that started the gold rush. The discovery of gold combined with cheap labour from the convicts meant that the Western Australian economy grew exponentially. From that point on we, as a state, were able to raise our own revenue to build rail in the midwest, the wheatbelt and around Geraldton. We were able to build infrastructure in Perth; we have continued to build on that infrastructure since that time. We look with admiration at the statue of Paddy Hannan on Hannan Street in Kalgoorlie and the plaque on the town hall to honour C.Y. O'Connor and his role in opening up the goldfields. I think C.Y. O'Connor was perhaps the first person to make Western Australia a leader in the provision of water. Western Australia now offers incredible opportunities to the world because of its expertise with water.

We are a state that has always been challenged by water; whether we look at the pipeline, the desalination plants built by the former government, the Ord River project or the Kimberley canal—whether we like it or not—we recognise that water has been a massive part of our state's psyche. We are very well positioned to offer the rest of the world that expertise in the future. Just last week I read a very interesting piece in *WA Business News* about China and some of its challenges. The challenges that China has, we have here in Western Australia. One of those challenges is water scarcity. China has 21 per cent of the world's population but only six and a half per cent of the world's water reserves. China does not use its water very efficiently. That will be a huge constraint on the growth of China in the near future. We here in Western Australia, with a very keen financial, social and cultural interest in the growth of China, are uniquely placed to offer China our expertise in that area. We are able to continue the story of Western Australia beyond simply the resources sector.

As I have said for quite some time, Foundation Day is no longer appropriate, as most MPs would agree. I acknowledge two people in my electorate—Peter and Betty Seaton of the SwanCare Group at Bentley Park. They were the long-term president and secretary of the Bentley Park social club. Betty and Peter are a wonderful couple. Every year they invite Viv, my wife, and I to the Foundation Day dinner at Bentley Park. It is the one Foundation Day event that I go to every year. The dinner has a huge turnout and they very strongly celebrate Foundation Day and what Western Australia has achieved. Since I first started talking publicly about changing the name of Foundation Day, Peter and I have agreed to disagree on changing the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day. The key part of Peter's dinner is to celebrate what Western Australia has become over the last almost 200 years. I acknowledge Betty and Peter Seaton because I know that, even though it is the Premier's legislation, I will wear some responsibility for this from Betty and Peter for daring to change the name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day.

I want to spend some time talking about our Aboriginal history and the relationship that has developed since 1829 between Aboriginal Western Australians and non-Aboriginal Western Australians. I will not go through the history of the control that the government had for many years over the lives of Aboriginal people, including members of my family; in some areas it still tries to exercise that control. Certainly in my lifetime—not in my father's lifetime, because he had more disputes—the debate over native title has been the greatest example of how that relationship has developed. The debate has been incredibly controversial. We have gone from the Mabo decision, the passing of the Native Title Act, the then Court government's challenge to that legislation in the High Court and the very bitter and nasty campaign that was waged by some members of the community against native title, to where we are now. Native title is now very much accepted in the mainstream. We have seen some wonderful examples. Western Australia leads the nation in native title resolutions from the Miriuwung Gajerrong in the Kimberley through to the current negotiations between the government and Nyoongah people.

I am on the public record as saying that I hope that will lead to a resolution of native title in the Nyoongah nation for all Nyoongah people. I do not think that there is a future in the courts and the government has been generous in the in-principle offer that it has made. I am not expecting every Nyoongah person to agree to the offer that has been made, but I hope that every Nyoongah person is able to participate in a meaningful way in that process under the able leadership of Glen Kelly at the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. I hope that we get a very good resolution from that. What will ultimately flow from that and what will flow nicely from this legislation is an act of Parliament that acknowledges the Nyoongah people as the traditional owners of the south west of Western Australia.

The other area in which we have seen the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people develop has been through welcomes to country. We see public disputes about whether welcomes to country should be a regular part of official proceedings. I think that at 90 per cent of the official proceedings that I go to, the minister, the business leader or whoever will commence with an acknowledgment of the traditional owners of

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

country. I was delighted when we had the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting here because all the functions I attended began with an acknowledgement of the traditional owners. I was particularly pleased with the welcome to country at the garden party at Government House. In light of the history of Government House, it was excellent to have Colleen Hayward give a wonderful welcome to country.

The relationship still has ways to go and we all know the statistics on health, education and, in particular, incarceration rates of Indigenous people. However, we have been able to remove native title as a controversial point. I note that it is a conservative state government that has made the offer to the Nyoongah people; that is a wonderful example of how far we have progressed. One of Kevin Rudd's finest moments as Prime Minister was when he gave his apology to the stolen generation in February 2008. I was very lucky to be there at Parliament House in Canberra. I will read the final paragraph of the substantive motion moved by the Prime Minister on 13 February 2008 —

It is for the nation to bring the first two centuries of our settled history to a close, as we begin a new chapter. We embrace with pride, admiration and awe these great and ancient cultures we are truly blessed to have among us—cultures that provide a unique, uninterrupted human thread linking our Australian continent to the most ancient prehistory of our planet.

Growing from this new respect, we see our Indigenous brothers and sisters with fresh eyes, with new eyes, and we have our minds wide open as to how we might tackle, together, the great practical challenges that Indigenous Australia faces in the future.

Let us turn this page together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, government and opposition, Commonwealth and state, and write this new chapter in our nation's story together. First Australians, First Fleeters and those who first took the oath of allegiance just a few weeks ago—let us grasp this opportunity to craft a new future for this great land, Australia. Mr Speaker, I commend the motion to the House.

That speech by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has led wonderfully well to where we are tonight with the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. Whilst I appreciate that our Indigenous culture is just one chapter of our state's story, it is an incredibly important and unique part of our history.

One final area I would like to focus on for a minute is the incredibly successful development and implementation of reconciliation action plans. Not a week goes by during which I am not invited to the launch of a reconciliation action plan; it is extraordinary how successful Reconciliation Australia has been. I have been to a number—at large corporate law firms, at Wesfarmers and at the National Australia Bank. These are hugely successful ways in which small groups of people can think about and focus on what they can do to close the gap and ensure that they participate meaningfully in their relationship with Aboriginal people.

The state government has been very good; state government departments have also developed reconciliation action plans, led by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. The ongoing discussions that the government is currently holding on the Nyoongah claim and the south west settlement is perhaps an opportunity to adopt the reconciliation process and to look at other ways in which we can look at Nyoongah lands and resolve that relationship. The Nyoongah people ultimately bore the real brunt of colonisation in Western Australia, and the fact that the Federal Court found that they still existed as a culture and a people is quite extraordinary. They very much bore the full force of colonial settlement. There are opportunities for this at places like Rottneest Island, or Wadjemup. Members will have read the article by Michael Sinclair-Jones on that subject that appeared not so long ago in *The West Australian*. There are opportunities to make parts of Western Australia more relevant to and respectful of our Nyoongah people; I think that would be a good thing, and not just for our own community. When tourists come to Western Australia, they want to have, as it is called, the Aboriginal experience. When most tourists come to Western Australia, they fly into Perth and think of the Kimberley, perhaps not quite appreciating the vast distances we have. I make the suggestion to the Premier that there are perhaps other avenues through which his government's ongoing negotiations with the Nyoongah people could be widened into other areas.

Before I was elected to Parliament I sat on the board of Indigenous Business Australia. One of the projects being looked at very early on was the idea of a national Indigenous cultural centre. I say “national” because the idea was to have something to celebrate Aboriginal people from all over Australia, including Torres Strait Islanders. In Australia we have an incredible collection of Aboriginal art and cultural collections, whether it is the collection at the Berndt Museum of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia or the art that was formerly owned by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, much of which is still in storage. There is an incredible collection of our Aboriginal culture owned by the people of Australia, and we need a venue to display and celebrate that culture.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

[Member's time extended.]

Mr B.S. WYATT: That culture extends nearly as far north as New Guinea and as far south west as the south west of Western Australia.

I know there is talk of an Aboriginal cultural centre as part of the Perth Waterfront project, but I think it is something that the federal government perhaps also needs to look at. If we are going to do this properly, I think we have an opportunity to make it a national celebration of our Aboriginal people. Obviously, there is controversy about where it is to be located and about the traditional owners of those lands, but I think that is something that certainly can be —

Mr C.J. Barnett: Just on that, if I may? As the member may be aware, there is a site that will be reserved on the waterfront, which basically goes into the river.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am aware of that; I am not yet 100 per cent sure of what the government is proposing, but there has been talk of different locations. I think that, nationally, the Swan River is the ideal location, bearing in mind the significance of the Swan River—Derbarl Yerrigan—and bearing in mind what we have in Western Australia, which is a huge state with a significant Aboriginal population, many of whom are now recognised as traditional owners across Western Australia. We are very well placed, I think, to host a national Indigenous cultural centre.

This is a great bill; I am very pleased that I was in Parliament to speak to it because, as I said at the beginning of my speech, Foundation Day no longer means anything to anybody. When we go to schools and speak to students about it, Foundation Day reflects nothing about Western Australia to them. I talked about Kalgoorlie, and the quite extraordinary growth of Western Australia over a relatively short time. Our future prospects need to be celebrated in a hopeful and respectful way that is inclusive of everybody who lives and participates in Western Australia, culturally and economically. Changing the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day should not offend anybody, because it is not an attack on any of our history; it is simply an opportunity to bring more people into the celebration of what truly is a wonderful state.

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [8.17 pm]: I am glad that the Premier is here, because I want to say to him that although I know there is a bit of history on both sides of the house with this bill, it is an absolute privilege and honour to stand in the Western Australian Parliament and speak to a bill that goes so far towards encompassing so many things to so many people. I want to echo the sentiments of pretty much all the opposition members who have spoken on this bill and say that I absolutely agree with their motivation in supporting this bill.

When I first moved to Western Australia at the start of 2000, I was a little disappointed because I would not be in Sydney for the Olympics! I came over here knowing absolutely nobody. When I first found out that I was going to have to move to Western Australia, I was, if anything, a bit apprehensive; I could not think of anywhere further or more remotely located that would make it more difficult to see my family and friends. Western Australia is a state that is made up, obviously, of the original inhabitants, but also people who have come here from other states. The population of Western Australia has grown rapidly, and the majority of those people have come from either other countries or other states of the commonwealth. I have to say that Western Australia has lived up to, and gone far beyond, any of my expectations for hospitality and for giving people opportunities, which is why we still see so many people coming to Western Australia to be part of the economy and the great success story that is our state.

To go back briefly to 2000, when I came across this public holiday known as Foundation Day, I asked all my newfound Western Australian friends—most of them were, with all due respect, native Western Australians, or people born in the state—what Foundation Day was about. I probably asked about a dozen of my mates, and none of them could tell me what Foundation Day was about, so I had to go and do some research on it. I will not go into the history to the same level that the member for Rockingham has, but I will make one comment. It has always surprised me how, as a nation, many of the states have different public holidays. Given the past significance of Foundation Day and what it will become as the day embraces more and more people in our state, I understand why many Western Australians feel we deserve such a day. I know that the member for South Perth would love to see Melbourne Cup day as a public holiday.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It always has been for the member for South Perth.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I know. I think Parliament sits on Melbourne Cup day this year, so the member is in for a bit of strife!

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am not talking party politics and I am not speaking either for or against Labour Day; it is celebrated on various days across the commonwealth. According to Wikipedia, the Labour Day holidays vary considerably between the states and territories. It is celebrated on the first Monday in October in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and South Australia; the second Monday in March in both Victoria and Tasmania; the first Monday in March in Western Australia; and on the first Monday in May in both Queensland and the Northern Territory. The other standout public holiday is the Queen's Birthday holiday, which Western Australians celebrate on a different day. I have always thought that we should perhaps try to make uniform the common public holidays. Every time a public holiday is celebrated on the east coast and not here in Western Australia, it is the day I am trying to get the Tyre Power dealer to order new tyres for my car, or some such thing, only to be told that it is a public holiday in the east, which just throws things out. In 2012, I would have thought that the more days that the seven states and two territories could agree to celebrate in common the better it would be for the Australian economy.

It is an absolute honour to serve in the Western Australian Parliament and it is a privilege to speak on this bill. I want to put on the record my appreciation of the people of Western Australia and my electorate of Jandakot—and of my political party; the Liberal Party of Western Australia—for giving me the opportunity to serve them to the best of my ability. I think it is —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I think I am unopposed. I am okay. I am pretty sure that I am unopposed.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Do not mess up my *Hansard*, minister!

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: It is a real honour. As I have said, I want to thank those people and the people of Western Australia for accepting me, for giving me the opportunity and for giving my friends the opportunity, and for being a home to all my mates in the submarine squadron. All those who want to be a submariner in the Royal Australian Navy have to come to terms with the fact that they will spend much of their career in Western Australia—albeit underwater! I do not know that too many people who come here to serve are in too much of a hurry to head back east. They come here and they fall in love with the place. In closing, I would say, as a lot of famous people have said, “Men and women are remembered not by where they are born, but by where they die”. I can, hand on heart, say that I expect to spend the rest of my life, no matter how long it is, in the great state of Western Australia.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [8.23 pm]: I rise to support the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011 and to state, once again, that those on the Labor side of politics think that it is a good move and one that properly reflects modern Western Australia. The member for Victoria Park has put very well the need for us to better acknowledge and represent our Indigenous past. Coming from a migrant background—both my parents were born in Italy—I think that it is good to have a day, WA Day, named to represent all Western Australians, be they born here or overseas or interstate like the member for Jandakot! The bill is a good bill and one that properly reflects all Western Australians.

I will talk briefly about my electorate because my electorate pretty much reflects not only the history of WA, but what modern Western Australia is today. The Swan Valley is a site of much Indigenous history and the banks of the Swan River are where a number of the Nyoongah people lived. We all know the story of Yagan, and there is now a special memorial for Yagan on the river bank at —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: There is also one at Heirisson Island.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, but one was put in place in Swan Valley a couple of years ago.

The Swan Valley has a very rich Indigenous past and is the site where Captain Stirling first landed in 1827; it is a site of rich soils and some of the best land in Western Australia. Post World War II, the migration of southern Italians and Croatians helped to create the vibrant tourism icon that is the Swan Valley. The electorate of West Swan and the area of Swan Valley represent some of the richest history in Western Australia.

This bill is very important because it properly tries to acknowledge Western Australia as it is today and the rich contribution made by migrants from all over the world. As I have said, my parents were migrants from southern Italy. As the minister stated in his second reading speech, the Western Australian population is representative of more than 200 nationalities and more than 170 languages, with more than 100 faiths practised. Therefore, the

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

renaming of Foundation Day to WA Day will better reflect the diverse, rich and multicultural state of Western Australia.

I allude to a couple of matters about how we celebrate WA Day and WA Week because, like the member for Mandurah I think it is quite confusing. I understand that WA Week is celebrated in October and the aim is to move it to June as part of the WA Day–WA Week celebrations. It is important that we not only have a WA Week, but that we celebrate it as a state. I think that we should try to include all those things that we are trying to have this bill encompass—namely, recognition of our Indigenous past and recognition of our multicultural society. We also need to try to ensure through the education system that our schools celebrate WA Week. I went to Roleystone Primary School and I remember that some of the most memorable moments were celebrating what was then Foundation Day and Foundation Day Week. I am not sure whether anyone else remembers Arbor Day and Pioneer Day. I remember those days and believe that they contributed to my acknowledgement of WA as being a very special place. I think that we should look to celebrate WA Week by having not only a special dinner at Government House, but also special functions in schools so that our children are able to properly acknowledge and experience WA. There should be special events that all Western Australians can participate in.

They are the key points that I want to make. I believe that this bill properly and better reflects Western Australia as it is today. It also helps acknowledge our rich Indigenous history and our multicultural society. As I have already stated, I believe that we need to look at what we are going to do in schools to help celebrate WA Week. I am a very proud Western Australian. I always have been. WA is the best state in Australia and one of the best places in the world to live. We should all be very proud to be Western Australian and should think about what we can do to help children celebrate that.

I know that the member for Jandakot spoke about public holidays falling on different dates. I am a strong federalist and believe that WA should retain some of its icons and some of its own identities. A good federal system does not mean uniformity on every front and I think it would be a big mistake to try to institute that. The idea is that it is better for business to make it uniform, but if we were to make everything uniform, we would lose some of the opportunities and benefits that diversity brings. So I am a strong Western Australian and I am also a strong federalist. I believe that WA should maintain its strong identity. I am always very suspicious of the whole push for uniformity, because diversity brings opportunity and innovation. When things are standardised, it reduces the innovation that can occur. I think healthy competition can sometimes happen throughout the states. That is one thing I mentioned in my inaugural speech. The idea that everything will be uniform is wrong. The US has a strong federal system in which each state has much more power than we have. I believe that the centralising of financial power in Canberra, both with the transfer of income taxing powers and then under the GST agreement of 1999, was a very big mistake. That was particularly so with the GST agreement. The centralisation of financial power in the commonwealth has led to the GST problem that we have today. The then Liberal government transferred power from Western Australia to Canberra, which is why we have the GST problem we have today. As I said, I am a proud Western Australian and a proud federalist. This is a good bill that properly reflects modern Western Australia.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [8.30 pm]: I did not intend to make a contribution to the debate on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill but I have been inspired to do so by the quality and nature of a number of the contributions this evening. I was particularly interested in those contributions that reflected upon the positive contribution this legislation will possibly have to our state and society. Firstly, the bill talks about Foundation Day acknowledging our Indigenous people as the original inhabitants and traditional custodians of the land and uniting all who have made Western Australia their home. Changing the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day will further that cause. I extend my congratulations to the Premier for pursuing this legislation. I understand that other members of the house have attempted over time to do the same thing. The Premier, as the leader of the state, has decided to introduce this legislation whilst he is in the position of Premier, and for that he needs to be acknowledged.

I wanted to take the opportunity to point out that we, as a nation, are at a bit of a tenuous time because of what I consider to have been a shallow and at times completely uninspiring debate across the entire political spectrum at the national level for a number of years. Right around the country people are feeling aggrieved or a little left out. All manner of people who are not necessarily even part of minority groups are feeling oppressed in some way and that their way of life is under threat. That is a concern. Although this bill is only small and is only about changing a name, the manner in which it has been introduced and, I hope, the way in which it will be championed by the Premier, the government and this Parliament represents an opportunity for us to send a message to the rest of the nation that it is time to spend a bit of effort and energy on shoring up the relationships we have across society, which I think are under threat. The rigorous and pretty shallow debate at the national

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

level has tended to polarise the entire nation. People have been compelled to choose between being resentful and fearful of some external threat or condemning their own fellows for feeling something that they are not.

Mr M.W. Sutherland: Climate change.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Or, for instance, other things like climate change. It is the nature of the debate and not necessarily the topic that has been so divisive. It is something that we should stop and reflect upon and consider what we can do. I hope that this legislation, and the way the Premier will take it forward, will heal a bit of the damage that I think has been done right across the country. We can do it here in Western Australia. It is important. The Premier has been subject to some very inappropriate, unkind and totally incorrect accusations in recent times by a small minority group who I feel is aggrieved and feeling hurt. However, that reflects a little of what else is going on. Members of Parliament only have to read some of their email traffic to recognise how much damage has been done to the national psyche in recent times. There are a lot of fearful people out there. I feel unnecessarily fearful, but there are a lot of people who have come to a place where their trust in their fellow Australians has been undermined. Some really egregious claims have been made against people in public life, which are unnecessary, inappropriate and wrong. That also trickles down, because those people are our leaders. If our national leaders are being aggressive and negative in debate, people will take that up at the local level and as a consequence we will all suffer. Acknowledging that a small thing like changing a name can make a positive contribution is a valuable thing.

I also take this opportunity to put on the record my respect and thanks for those people who feel that the name “Foundation Day” is important and, in a lot of cases, have spent many decades recognising it. The member for Victoria Park referred to a couple of his constituents who make a great deal of effort to acknowledge the day and celebrate it, and have done so for a long time. They will be disappointed by this legislation. I would like to acknowledge the fact that they cared enough to do that. They have kept a little bit of awareness alive, but I do think that the time for this legislation has come.

My own story indicates the two extremes, I guess, of Western Australian society in a lot of ways. I will immediately preface what I am about to say by saying that I do not have Aboriginal blood and I am not an original Australian, so there is a whole other story that I think is incredibly valuable and for which we should be very thankful; we should be using it a lot more to build our society and the connections throughout society. I guess my story reflects the extremes of European settlement in Western Australia. Although I have an Italian surname, an ancestor on my mother’s side arrived on the *Mermaid* in 1851 as a convict.

Mr M.W. Sutherland: It hasn’t rubbed off, member!

Mr P. PAPALIA: No, it has not. Like many Australians I am very proud of my convict heritage. Edwin John Moore arrived on the *Mermaid*. He was 26 years old. He came from York. He received a 15-year sentence for firing a stack of barley. As I understand it, that is the same crime that was committed by an ancestor of the member for Vasse. It might have been one that they wheeled out every now and then when they wanted to get rid of somebody, or we may have something in common! My ancestor on my mother’s side arrived at that time so long ago. My mother’s side has a lot more in common with the people who hold the name “Foundation Day” dear than any other part of our society. Those people benefited from being among the earlier arrivals of European settlement and the subsequent building of Western Australian society.

It is interesting to juxtapose that with my father’s side of the family. My father was born here but his father—my grandfather—migrated from Italy after the First World War. That was not as recent as the migration of many Italians and other southern Europeans in the 1950s, but he came here after the First World War and was subsequently interned in the Second World War. He fought as a soldier in the First World War as an ally of the Australians and came here to escape the turmoil of post-World War I Europe and avoid anything else like that, but he was interned because he was deemed to be a threat to the nation during the Second World War. I think that changing the name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day embraces those people and others like them who arrived in Australia subsequently and who are still coming to Australia. In my electorate there are particularly large numbers of people from South Africa and in recent times from Zimbabwe and right across Africa. There are also many Asians coming into the state and many refugees from other parts of the world as well as migrants from all over the world. Those people need to be included not just for the sake of including them but because it strengthens all of us if all members of society believe that they are a part of it. We want them to buy into it. In my view, that is the greatest strength we have against the threat of any disruption to our society and anything like homegrown terrorism. I said that in my inaugural speech. The 9/11 attacks had just occurred and I had a little while earlier got back from the Iraq war. It was during the early days of our involvement in Afghanistan. What I said then still holds true today; that is, the greatest strength and defence against an internal threat to our security lies in making everyone feel that they are part of society and that they have ownership of it.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

Any minority group that believes that will watch people who look a bit radical and who might be a threat and they will let us and the security services know about them. That will be our greatest strength and intelligence source and our greatest defence against any threat like that. Beyond that, the more that people become the owners of the state and the nation, the more they contribute. That is easily demonstrated by again reflecting a little on my own family history. Less than a decade after my grandfather was interned as a threat to the nation during the Second World War, his eldest son was serving in the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in Korea as a machine gunner in the Australian Army. Within that time frame, which was a very short time, someone could be converted to the point of not only believing they were part of the country and had some ownership of it, but also wanting to contribute and potentially risk life and limb for the sake of the nation. That is what I think we should aim for. Yes, this bill is a very small change, as the Leader of the Opposition said at the outset. However, I believe it is a valuable contribution and I commend the Premier for it. I think that we can make a contribution to the rest of the nation and let them know how it is done, in a lot of ways.

I will reflect also on the challenges before us. As the member for Victoria Park said, just saying sorry was not the end of the story and was not the only action that is required in the long run. There is a big challenge before us. I know that there was a bit of a political element in the Premier's response to the Gonski schools review, but I commend parts of it to the Premier. There is a tremendous amount of information in that review. The one thing that struck me was the sheer volume of information and knowledge that it presents us with regarding the challenge that we face in trying to support the most disadvantaged in our society. I have responsibility for the shadow education portfolio and know that much of that challenge will be picked up in our state school system. The Gonski review identified that 83 per cent of students enrolled in remote and very remote areas are being educated in the public school system and that 85 per cent of the Indigenous students in the nation are educated in the public school system. Throw into that mix the 78 per cent of those students who have funded disabilities and the 68 per cent of those who come from a background other than English, and it can be seen how significant the challenge confronting the public education system is in not only this state, but also right across the nation. That should be a serious focus for all of us. If we want people to feel that they are part of society, we must talk about it and do things such as change the name of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day and provide a focus on tackling disadvantage, building equity and getting people to buy into society as fully fledged equal members of it. Once again, I congratulate the Premier and support the bill.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [8.45 pm]: On behalf of the people of Albany, we are very pleased with the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. The myth of Foundation Day, which happens every year, is quite unacceptable to us. I am looking at *Wikipedia*, which states that Albany is the oldest continuous European settlement in Australia and was founded in 1826, three years before the state capital of Perth. This myth has been going on for all these years. We have our own Foundation Day in Albany. I support the bill but call on the Premier to have Western Australia Day —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: And have an Albany day?

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, we have an Albany foundation day in January. Every January people in Albany get dressed up as convicts and march down the main street to the old museum. We have a big cannon and muskets and everyone dresses up in the old—what is the name of the man who reads out the big screed?

Mr M.W. Sutherland: The town crier?

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, it is not the town crier; it is an actual person. It is Phil Lockyer, who was an upper house member, and he does it every year. We fire three big cannons and do not see any seagulls in Albany for a week afterwards! Everyone celebrates the day. I used to have great discussions about this with former Premier Geoff Gallop because every time he announced Foundation Day celebrations I wanted to move an amendment! It is a very sore point in Albany. We have the oldest continuous European settlement in Western Australia. I know that some people will say that Albany was an outpost of New South Wales, but I have always believed that when the boats landed and a settlement was established, that was the founding of the colony of Western Australia. I could have been the member for Perth instead of the member for Albany. They might have changed the name. Albany was called Frederickstown originally and it was an outpost of New South Wales. Thank goodness we got out of that predicament.

The one thing that Australia lacks is tradition. When I went to Gallipoli for Anzac Day, I saw the Turkish national dress and the pride they have in their country. Australia and even Western Australia lacks that type of tradition. Changing Foundation Day to Western Australia Day is a tremendous concept. The Premier and I do not agree on much, except perhaps on one football team, but I think that this is a tremendous idea. We need to have some identity. I was not born in Western Australia; I was born in Victoria. My dad was in the Air Force and I was an Air Force brat. I represented Western Australia in athletics and was very proud of that. All my children

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

have always been very proud to be Western Australians and a couple of my children have represented this state in sport and other areas. Being a Western Australian is unique. We are on the far side of the continent and are considered one of the smaller states but we punch well above our weight.

It was interesting to hear the member for Victoria Park talk about the Indigenous people. The Nyoongah people in Albany were probably not very well looked after by the early settlers when they first got here, but the recognition of them in the bill will go a long way towards rectifying that, especially as this week is Harmony Week. This bill could not have come at a better time. I congratulate the Premier for doing this. I was going to suggest an amendment, but it is getting a bit late at night to allow Albany to have Albany foundation day in January every year. It is celebrated very robustly at the schools. I have not read all of the bill, but we get schools involved on Anzac Day. I think that having a Western Australia Day is a tremendous concept and I hope that we can get support through not only the schools, but also the whole community.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [8.50 pm]: It is quite interesting that we have before us the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011, which, at first glance, people might think is quite insignificant. But those people who have listened to the speeches prior to mine will know that this bill is quite significant. It has brought out the best in my colleagues. The Premier should be commended, as should the member for Victoria Park, who has also publicly supported this bill for a while now. It is interesting that it is 2012 in Western Australia, which is quite a parochial state, and we do not have a Western Australia Day. It has taken us this long to consider renaming Foundation Day “Western Australia Day”.

Some of us have talked about our migrant backgrounds. I want to retrace part of my migrant background. I think the member for Mandurah talked about the country. Of course, the member for Albany, the champion of Albany, also talked about the country factors in Western Australia. I was born in Collie. It is a shame that the member who represents Collie is not in the chamber at the moment. Collie was a town of migrants. In Collie in the 1960s, there were very strong Italian and Polish contingents and two or three-generation Australians, but no Indigenous people. I can recollect only one Indigenous person in Collie, and that was an old lady who used to walk on the outskirts of Collie. I never knew where she came from or where she went. I always wondered why Collie did not seem to have many Indigenous people. Later when I went to work at the Aboriginal Legal Service and became very involved with the stolen generations, I found out about the Roelands mission. A lot of Indigenous people from the south west and particularly around the Collie region were transferred to the Roelands mission. It operated when I was in Collie in the 1960s. We often think about the stolen generations as being ancient history, but it is not. I think Roelands was still operating in the 1970s based on the stolen generations’ policy of assimilation. It was really quite interesting. Of course, I found out later that Collie has a rich history of Indigenous occupation and settlement, but I never witnessed it in my time in Collie. As I said, the Italians and the Polish dominated the non-Anglo-Celtic part of Collie.

Some would say that my parents were a match made in heaven. My father, who had an Italian background in Tuscany, emigrated to Australia in 1951 and went to work in Dwellingup. My mother, who had an Italian background—Calabrese—grew up in Yarloop. They met in Pinjarra and went down to Collie, where two of my three siblings were born. I know it was very difficult for my father, and I think I mentioned this in my inaugural speech. There was a lot of racism against Italians in the 1950s and 1960s. We moved to Armadale in the early 1970s. I could not believe the cultural mix in Armadale. When I say “cultural mix”, that is a misnomer. Basically, there was not much of a cultural mix in Armadale; it was mainly English. The British population in Armadale was immense. Thirty of the 36 kids in my grade 5 class at Kingsley Primary School—which is not in Kingsley; it is in Armadale—were born in England. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a great flood of British immigrants—they were mainly English—settled in the Armadale-Kelmscott region. Most of the fathers worked on the Kwinana industrial strip. They lived in either Kwinana-Medina or Armadale. There was no such thing as a population in Atwell, Jandakot or any of those places. I had a pretty horrendous time at school. Looking back on it, it was quite ironic that I was Australian born but I was ostracised by my English friends. That was a lesson that I had to learn, but of course it was a lesson that I cannot complain about too much because it was not the racism that has been experienced day in and day out by our Indigenous brothers and sisters in Western Australia.

Unlike Collie, Armadale has a very high proportion of Indigenous people. From my understanding, my electorate has the second highest Indigenous population of any metropolitan electorate in the Western Australian Parliament. If that is not true, it would have at least the third highest Indigenous population, but I am sure that it has the second highest. I have a background in Collie, where there were Polish and Italian populations, and in Armadale, where there were many English immigrants and a large Indigenous population.

If we consider Western Australia Day, which will take over from Foundation Day, we cannot forget Kelmscott. The Canning River has great significance for a number of Nyoongah people because it was a transport route

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

from Perth. As a result, Kelmscott was established by the British population in 1830. Kelmscott Primary School, which sits on the banks of the Canning River in Kelmscott, is, I think, the oldest or second oldest primary school in Western Australia. That is a historical summation of part of my upbringing that is collated with the Indigenous population and the migrant population.

As the member for Warnbro mentioned, if we are to ensure that people grow up in a safe society, that society needs to be proud of its history and its community. Although this may be only a name change, it can be a springboard for us to look at our history. I spent some time in the United States. What I found interesting in the US is how proud those people are of their own history. Of course, the counterargument to that is that they seem to be interested only in their own history. Although we have in the past failed to learn our own history, people in the US have not failed to learn their own history, but many have failed to learn about world history and many have failed to have an interest in world affairs. I hope we never go down that path. I do not think Australians would ever go down that path because we are always outward looking. Even though we are very proud Western Australians or Australians, we always look towards the international sphere.

The Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill needs to be used as a springboard for three things. The first is to ensure that the next wave of migrants is welcomed. Unfortunately, in the 1950s and maybe the early 1960s, the Italians were maybe not persecuted but they were teased. It was particularly difficult for young people of Italian background. In the 1970s it was the Vietnamese, and in the 1980s it was the greater Asian population. In the past 10 years it has been the Muslim population, and now it is moving to the various African populations in Western Australia. We have to be mindful that the new wave of migrants will always be susceptible to any xenophobic tendencies in our population. We are no different from the rest of the world. I have travelled extensively across the world and every country I have visited, unfortunately, has a degree of racism. We have to use this as a springboard to eradicate that revolting illness, that disease that is known as racism.

We also have to use this bill to educate our citizens on the significance of Western Australia Day. It is no good just having the name. As my kids were growing up, they had Foundation Day celebrations at school, but I do not think they really knew what it meant. They got dressed up, but more needs to be done to educate students on the significance of Foundation Day, which will become Western Australia Day, and what obligations and duties they have as Western Australians. Thirdly, and most important, is that it has to be used for the continuing reconciliation process. We cannot say that we have achieved reconciliation. We could be here in a hundred years' time and we will not have achieved reconciliation. It is a continuing process. We are reconciling with our Indigenous population. The native title agreement that has been put forward by the government goes towards that, but on its own that will never achieve reconciliation. It is really a misnomer to say that reconciliation has been achieved. We have not achieved that, but we can move towards that target. I hope that this bill, which seems to have wide support in this house, can be used as a springboard, firstly, to ensure that our minorities are treated properly; secondly, to ensure that all Western Australians understand their traditions, their history and what it means to be Western Australian; and, thirdly, as a stimulus to the reconciliation process. As Western Australians and as parliamentarians, we owe that to the people we represent.

MR M.J. COWPER (Murray–Wellington — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.01 pm]: I will make a short contribution to the debate. I agree with the comments made by the member for Armadale about the various waves of immigrants who have come to this state in more modern times—the 1970s, 1980s and so on. Of course, in my electorate, the internment camps, including Benger, and perhaps the camps that the member for Warnbro referred to, had large Italian populations, particularly from southern Italy. Those people have gone on to be recognised as some of the most valuable people in our society. Certainly many of the businesspeople in my electorate, who have manifested themselves in large companies—the Catalanos, the Carbones, the Gaucis, the Parravicinis and the like—were successful farmers who started from humble beginnings and now have rather large corporations. They are part of the more recent history of my electorate.

One of the things that concerns me with the phenomenon of changing the name Foundation Day to Western Australia Day is that although we have these public holidays, as has been commented on by the member for Armadale, we do not teach our young people about the significance of the day. The member for Armadale made the point to our Premier that perhaps we should start to etch out some of the history of Western Australia. We are starting to mature as a state, and I have heard the Premier's comment that we are being noticed a little more on the world stage. Our focus is obviously on Asia, but we should always remember the fantastic people who constitute this great state.

One of the fortunate aspects of being the member for Murray–Wellington is that my electorate is one of the very first areas that was settled in Western Australia. Pinjarra is the fourth-oldest municipality in Western Australia; it was established in 1834. If members have time to read some of the local history, it is fascinating—in particular a book written by local historian Ronald Richards titled *Mandurah and the Murray : a short history of the Old*

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

Murray District of Western Australia 1829–1900. A number of firsts occurred in the Peel region and the Murray district during those times, and I will touch on some of those. Thomas Peel was somewhat late in bringing his entourage of people from England to the Swan River Colony, as it was known. He was allocated a parcel of land that is now South Perth, Canning Vale, Melville Waters and the like. However, because Peel had not arrived in the prescribed time, Governor Stirling had to make a decision about what he was going to do with those settlers who had already come to Western Australia, and with winter approaching they had to get cracking and start growing crops to sustain themselves. Peel and his group were sent to Clarence, which is the old Watermans Bay, south of Coogee, where the lighthouse is, and they were camped there for some 12 months while Governor Stirling decided what he would do with them. It was rumoured that there was a river of some significance to the south of the Swan River Colony. A number of settlers in the Swan River Colony had brought back promising reports of land when they had pursued some stray cattle to the south. Interestingly enough, the Murray River was named before it was even discovered. Governor Stirling sent whaling boats down the coast to discover the mouth of the Murray River, which was named after Sir William Charles Murray, the then secretary of state for colonies in the British Empire. He was a Scotsman from a place called Perth in Scotland, and hence the name of Perth has been perpetuated as the capital of this great state after the locality that Sir Charles represented. I suppose it is always good politics to name somebody who obviously had a lot of money and had influence over the future of this great state.

The whaling boats missed the mouth of the Murray River and ended up on the beach at what is now Singleton. They were there for about three days waiting for the south westerlies to abate so they could relaunch their boats off the beach. They made their way back north towards Fremantle, and as they came around the point at Halls Head through the surf breakers they saw the entrance of what they thought was the mouth of the Murray River. In fact, it was what we now know is the entrance to the Harvey–Peel estuary. They made camp that night, where the Ferris wheel is now located, and the next day they commenced to explore the area. Very soon after they discovered it was not a river but a huge estuary system of 160-odd square kilometres. They headed south into the Peel region to an area now known as Point Grey. They observed some Indigenous people there living quite well. They passed them and they went down to the very southern end of the Harvey estuary. They located what is now the Harvey River. They went up the river a short distance; they camped there the night but soon concluded this was not the river that had been described to them by the settlers. They got back in their whaleboats and dragged these heavy old whaleboats back across the sand bars and came around to the Peel estuary. They then located the Serpentine and the Murray Rivers. That is how the area was first discovered.

Not long after that, Thomas Peel was given the allocation of land from Rockingham out to Serpentine, in a square south to Waroona and then back across to the coast; it was a rather large holding of land now commonly known as the Peel region. Having said that, the Peel region that we know now is configured differently to what it was under Thomas Peel's control. He then allocated to his people simple belongings. They only had what they brought with them from England. They were in the true sense the pioneers of that area, and they included the likes of the McLartys, the Beachams, the Coopers, the Suttons, the Pollards and the Kirkhams, who settled that area with little else than what they carried on their back. In fact, some of the materials they brought from England were lost overboard during a storm. Obviously, as we can imagine, in those days there was nothing of use here for the cultivation of soil for agriculture; they could use only what they could bring with them. We can imagine the hardships those pioneer families had to endure when trying to find food to sustain themselves and create conditions that they could build on. Of course, they proved to be very successful because the soils along the banks of the Murray River, the Serpentine River and the Harvey River are very good and today remain some of the premier food-producing areas of Western Australia. These people not only took up rather large landholdings in the area, they also went on to become pioneers further afield. Much of the hinterland from Pinjarra and over the hills into Kojonup and Williams was settled by people from the Peel region who were family to these people, and right up to the north west and into the Kimberley. One of the cattle stations we know up there was begun by these families and some of these cattle stations remain very much in the ownership of some of them.

One of the benefits I enjoyed as a member of the police force was to travel a fair bit. I lived for two years in Broome and learnt of the extraordinary, I suppose, eclectic group of people who made up that town. I recall on one occasion reading a file in the police station about requests for additional staffing for the Broome Police Station. It showed the population of Broome to comprise X number of Japanese, X number of Malays and a large number of Koepangers. It was very interesting because there were only 25 Europeans and 25 Indigenous people living in Broome in those days. Broome was very much an outpost of Asia in the days before, if we like, the more European settlers moved into the area.

Of course, Hall went seeking his fortune, and he pushed his mate in a wheelbarrow across the Kimberley. I think that was an extraordinary feat, given the trek would have been across 700 or 800 kilometres of wilderness and

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

very rugged terrain. He finally found gold. The first of its kind to be found in Western Australia was at Halls Creek. While Hall was living at Halls Creek he read the births and deaths extracts that were on file there. A lot of the early settlers out there, particularly the miners, died of scurvy and typhoid.

Mr T.G. Stephens: Appendicitis.

Mr M.J. COWPER: They also suffered a lot from something described on their death certificates as a malaise that I suspect was some sort of mental breakdown due to being unable to cope with the very harsh conditions. Then, of course, there is the *Kings in Grass Castles* saga about the Duracks, a remarkable story of cattle being driven from Innes in New South Wales across Queensland and the Northern Territory to set up a vast empire of cattle stations in the Kimberley. They lost parts of the crew to crocodiles when they came across the Northern Territory and lost some to the harsh conditions. I cannot conceptualise how harsh it would have been because it was pretty tough when I was living there in the 80s when we drove four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Mr T.G. Stephens: The 1980s as opposed to the 1880s!

Mr M.J. COWPER: Indeed; it was pretty tough in the 1880s.

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr M.J. COWPER: Yes. It is pretty hard to comprehend how isolated it must have been.

I have heard the member for Pilbara speak about how the Bridge family were something of pioneers in their own right. There is the story of Ernie Bridge's father getting an old model T Ford and making his way warily through to what are now the Bungle Bungles, which is Gidga country and where the Gidga people are predominant. The Bridges are of the Gidga people. I went through there in the 80s in a four-wheel-drive Toyota and I think it took us four or five hours to go 30 kilometres. It would have been some sort of feat to drive a model T Ford there in the 1920s. Many, many people make up the collective of those who broke new ground as it were. I am not for a minute ignoring the great contribution these people received from the Indigenous population of Western Australia. There was none better than Windich when he was pretty much John and Alexander Forrest's right-hand man. If it were not for him they would not have achieved what they did when they opened up vast tracts of land in Western Australia. When I lived in Dampier, I learnt of the history of the Withnell family, which is another great story. If members ever get the opportunity they should travel to Karratha, Roebourne or Cossack and learn of the feats of other pioneering people such as the Withnells. The stories go on right across Western Australia.

The member for Albany spoke very passionately about his part of the world. It is with some sadness, I suppose, that we are changing the name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day. I acknowledge that it is an advancement—an evolving and maturing of Western Australians as a collective. I do not want for a second to forget the great contributions and hardships these people endured so that we could be where we are today. Sometimes I look out my office window and see the great bustling city of Perth and think about the mines in the north and the mighty Fitzroy River, where I had great times, and the south west and everything that is in between. That they have been developed only since 1829 is a fairly remarkable achievement by all Western Australians collectively.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr M.J. COWPER: That was part of New South Wales, from all accounts.

Mr P.B. Watson: Are you saying Albany was part of New South Wales?

Mr M.J. COWPER: It was back then. In any event, it is a wonderful part of Western Australia. I think what happens out there in Western Australia sometimes occurs irrespective of what happens in this place. It is a credit to all Western Australians that we have such a great community and democracy in what I believe is the best country in the world. Having said that, there are many other great stories out there, such as the story of Kingsley Fairbridge from down my way, who came out here in the 1900s and set up a home for displaced youth from Europe. That has been transformed by a very good CEO, Mark Anderson. We now have a very good story to tell about how we are dealing with disadvantaged young people, predominantly Indigenous young people. Let me say that I have observed some of the young people who have gone through the Fairbridge program to be now some of the finest young people I have ever had the privilege of engaging with. They are doing fantastic things there for the greater community of Western Australia.

I suppose even Lang Hancock himself, in more recent times, was a pioneer inasmuch as he was a knockabout bloke, who probably flew his aeroplane a little loosely and by chance flew down a gorge under some fairly inclement weather and noticed his compass was going awry. But he had enough interest to go back and find a considerable amount of mineral wealth on the ground. There are many great stories. C.Y. O'Connor is another

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

pioneer. These people were great contributors to the history of Western Australia. I am saddened by the fact that we will lose the recognition that, in the history of Western Australia, some of these great people deserve.

I agree with the comments made by the member for Armadale that perhaps this is a great springboard of which we need to take advantage. We need to start teaching our young people the importance of the great people of Western Australia, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who have contributed to our history. I look forward to further debate in this chamber.

MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara) [9.20 pm]: It is an extraordinary opportunity to speak at this stage of the debate when we are at the tail-end of an amazing set of contributions in support of the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. In the life of Parliament it is not often that we get the chance to see the rich tapestry that is Western Australia and to hear people speak in a bipartisan way as they sing the praises of a bill such as this. We inadvertently end up singing the praises of the government or the minister who has responsibility for the bill. I keep remembering the old adage of my mother, which is, "If you cannot say anything nasty about a Liberal, do not say anything at all!" I find myself having to say something nice about my political opponents; that is, this is a great bill of which the government should be proud. We are proud to be part of the chamber that supports the bill that is before the house. As part of this sweep of the contribution, I note that we have heard an amazing range of contributions in support of this legislation from Albany, Warnbro, Victoria Park, Murray–Wellington and Armadale. I have not heard all the contributions, but these are great contributions that add to the rich tapestry of the Western Australian community being celebrated in this bill and in the name change, which we should all embrace, in my view.

All of us can tell stories about the connection with initiatives such as this. In my case I keep remembering the story of my old Aunt Mollie. My old Aunt Mollie Fox was my godmother. As a young girl in 1916 she was caught up in the pressure of the transformation of the old British Empire Day. She championed the cause of transforming British Empire Day into Australia Day and she got caught up in the fight with her Aunt Bella. My Great Aunt Bella and Aunt Mollie were out on the floats through Martin Place in Sydney to try to get the old British Empire Day converted into Australia Day to celebrate the Australian community. It did not happen at that time and it was years and years of effort before all the states eventually came to celebrate Australia Day on 26 January, this bizarre date that has been chosen for Australia Day. However, it was part of moving this nation of ours from being a British imperial construct into a nation that was something more than that; it embraced history, the present and future into something that had real possibility rather than hankering after a past that was gone.

We are now an important part of that history for all the reasons that have been given to the chamber tonight. Incredibly powerful reasons have been presented to the house tonight, but I want to add a few. One reason is the amazing sense of being Western Australian. I come to that from marriage and through persuasion, I guess. I came to the west from the east. I have gone to the border countries of places such as Kununurra and later to Wingellina and seen what it is like to stand on that part of Western Australia where the three borders meet. People can see Western Australia behind them and South Australia and the Northern Territory in front of them. Simply the act of installing a surveyor's corner determines that which is Western Australia and that which we celebrate. If one happened to be an earlier Australian, an original Australian, there is something bizarre about the process that we are entering into tonight whereby maps, borders and geometry did not previously mean a lot. It is the legacy of the combination of history, politics and reality that means we are now blessed with this opportunity to move on from the past, which was essentially colonial, into something that is much more embracing and expansive than that which we had celebrated on the colonial foundation day that is now to be Western Australia Day.

So many people have added to the richness of the debate tonight. Opportunities come from embracing the prehistory, the Aboriginal history, and then adding into that the extraordinary more recent history, which has been described by many other speakers and which includes the history of the early settlers and the people who joined them in the early settlement. People such as the Afghan camel drivers brought amazing heritage into this country and into this state; that would not have been possible without the presence of the Afghan community. The Chinese community came and got connected with the goldfields and the Japanese community got connected with the pearling industry. Western Australia also became home to Italian and Greek communities.

In my early period in campaigning for office, I remember so clearly and poignantly the connection with the new arrivals from the islands of Cocos and Christmas. The Malay-speaking communities of the Cocos Islands and Christmas Island shifted into the Pilbara in very large numbers as Australian citizens, but they had never previously exercised the right to vote. I worked with those people very closely in building their connection to the electoral laws of this country and the enrolment opportunities. They gave their loyal votes as Muslims and as Malays, participating as Western Australians, as they took their toehold in this state. As Western Australians

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

they sought my support in building their first mosque and in embracing the hijab. In turn they asked for my support to change the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act as one of my pre-election commitments. From time to time my colleagues have been part of this, I guess, joke. When they ask me what I have ever achieved as a parliamentarian in the long years I have spent here, I proudly say that I helped change the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. They laugh at me and scorn me for my assertion of connection with that change, but I was able to make it possible for the Malay community of the Pilbara to connect to a naming system that overthrew the Henry VIII system that had come in hundreds of years before and over which I had to fight the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It felt like a sort of skirmish; he sat under his visor, with his rolled-up sleeves, in his office down there at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and said that he would not change the act. I told him that we had made a pre-election commitment to change it so that it would be possible for people to use their cultural practice as their naming system. The Australian Malays did not want to be caught up in this mess that was inflicted upon them in which the name of their grandfather was suddenly their surname. It left them with a confused porridge that was unintelligible to the community of which they were a part. Those changes to the statutes allowed them to be included in the body statute that was ours and the state that was Western Australia, and that helped them as they embraced what it means to be Australian and Western Australian.

For me as well, I cannot help but think about the ingredients of the family into which I married. I am lucky enough to have married into a family that includes what appears to have been an English settler of unknown origins who became a successful cattle breeder in the 1840s. He went up into the Murchison and made an absolute squillion as he rolled out pastoral lease after pastoral lease and brought back the lost cattle of the Pilbara to his various properties. His name was Charles Smith—a forgotten name in the pastoral heritage of Western Australia. He in turn married into the Morrissey family, who are part of the Irish connection to the Gascoyne and the Murchison, which enriched the tapestry of the community and the state that is Western Australia. The Morrisseys, in turn, married into the Rodoreda clan, which again features in my family pedigree through my mother-in-law, Joan Rodoreda. She was an enormous source of education to me as a good citizen of Western Australia; she was a great granddaughter of a Catalan who migrated to this country with Bishop Serra and Bishop Salvado to establish the New Norcia monastery, resulting in a Spanish connection to this community. The Spanish added to the body politic in their fights with the Irish in the Catholic community of Perth, and added another link to the rich tapestry of the Western Australian community—people like the Boladeras and the Perjuans, along with the Rodoredas and so many more who have come to Western Australia from Catalonia and the other proud provinces of Spain.

Much later in the piece, they linked with later arrivals like the Durack family who, again, intermarried with the clan into which I am married. The Duracks arrived about 50 years later than some of the earlier arrivals, but they brought into this state a huge fighting spirit in their effort to obtain land; old Patsy Durack, the first Durack arrival, had a distrust of authority and troopers, and was opposed to the government of the day. But that migration eventually led to members of this Parliament such as old M.P. Durack, who became the conservative member for Kimberley. He was my wife's great uncle, while on the other side she had another great uncle, Loy Rodoreda, who was the Labor member for Pilbara in the 1950s and died as the one-eyed Speaker of this house—he was blind in one eye! He also adds to that rich tapestry—that connection of Spanish, Irish and all the other extraordinary contributions that have come with the arrival of new settlers into Western Australia.

They are celebrated, in my view, through this change of name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day. Their contributions are as valid and valuable as those of the first settlers in this state. We know so much about the earliest settlers, including Stirling. We also know about the complexities of the earliest and most difficult days of settlement through the play *Swan River Saga: Life of Early Pioneer Eliza Shaw*, written by Mary Durack. If we were simply to celebrate Foundation Day, it would somehow or other be an exclusive club that did not embrace the people who came behind and continued to come, and the people who came before, the Aboriginal community. They are effectively more included by the change of name that is before the house tonight.

I congratulate the Premier; I will not make a habit of singing the praises of my political opponents! But on this occasion, praise is deserved.

Mr M.P. Whitely interjected.

Mr T.G. STEPHENS: I spoke about it earlier, and the member would have had the chance to rubbish me if he had been in the house!

This is a worthwhile change. As pointed out by earlier speakers during this debate, this change welcomes our pre-history and welcomes the fact that there has been settlement with a particular group of people, largely English, with a small ragtag of others who came in with them. Very rapidly behind them, a range of people

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

brought rich texture to the fabric of the Western Australian community. Increasingly today, we have a society that is blessed by contributions from all over the globe. May it be our hallmark that we retain that which is important to us: the democratic traditions, and the respect for core human values that have evolved into our understanding of human rights that should be enshrined in the statute books and in the judicial interpretations of the rights of Western Australians. They distinguish us from many other parts of the globe, but at the same time we bring from other parts of the globe the richness that is on offer. We make sure, simultaneously, that that richness is protected by the best values that we have been able to discover within ourselves and within the community that was here before us.

I support the bill before the house and reiterate the view that it is a bill that, while deserving congratulations, also begs the next step, which was described by the member for Armadale. It should be the springboard upon which the government and community of Western Australia find ways, through a whole variety of steps, to secure our future as a state blessed with vast resources, good pedigree and great opportunities. We also need to be blessed with good foresight, embodied in good policies and programs from government.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [9.38 pm]: I will just make a few comments in support of the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. I have not done the numbers, but I speak as probably the “youngest” Australian in Parliament in the sense of duration of time in Australia, and as a person whose roots are not in Australia; my wife is also a migrant. I also represent possibly the most intense migrant electorate in the state; depending on how it is measured, somewhere between 65 to 70 per cent of people living in the electorate of Riverton are migrants, of which more than 30 per cent are from Asia. The electorate of Riverton is not growing very rapidly, but by my rough calculations around 70 per cent of people who have come into the area over the last three or four years are migrants from Asia.

That is a very common characteristic of Western Australia, has been for some time, and will be increasingly so. The rhetoric has been around Australia for as long as I can remember that we are moving towards Asia, but Western Australia is doing so more significantly than any other area in Australia. More importantly, we are going through a period of change; in the past, in the days of foundation, we looked back to Britain, but more recently we have looked to Sydney and Melbourne, and to the eastern states. We are increasingly and rapidly shifting towards Asia in terms of our focus and linkage, and in not only business and trade, but also culture and people. We in Western Australia are going through a rapid transformation of orientation and that makes this a good time to reflect. It throws up some challenges. When we seek to change Foundation Day and other such important days, I am a reluctant changer. We must never forget the past. We must never forget the past and we must not change only to satisfy trends. However, we have significantly and repeatedly changed over the past so many years since the foundation of Western Australia, and in recent years that pace of change has been significant.

For a number of reasons, it is now important for us to regularly focus on what it means to be Western Australian. I refer first to the change in composition of the population. The cultural and economic orientation of Western Australia is different and that difference will only grow apace. Second, increasingly the days of celebration are, for example, the Queen’s Birthday and Labour Day. Most of the times when we think about who we are as a people, we focus nationally—as Australians. I think that is always the best because we are all Australians and being Australian takes priority. But we also have a past, and this day gives us a chance to think about what it means to be Western Australian, which is something that is seldom done in our schools, in the media and even in the community—outside this house—and that is a mistake. It is not to say that we are unique from the rest of Australia or separate from the rest of Australia, but we do have unique attributes and trends that we must think about, and Western Australia Day will give us a chance to think about what it means to be not only Western Australian, but also a part of a rapidly changing Western Australia.

Other members raised the issue of rapid change in population and ethnicity and background. That is probably no less an issue in my electorate than in any other, and is very important when people come from diverse backgrounds. Our most significant population sources are New Zealand and Britain, people who think that they understand Western Australia—some do, albeit with some blind spots—but increasingly our population comes from places like India, China, Malaysia, Singapore and other places in Asia. Many of those countries, for example Singapore, Malaysia and India, are commonwealth countries and no doubt the people understand many of the cultural aspects, the political system, the language, business and the law. However, the many people who come from outside the commonwealth need to reflect on why they are coming to Australia and to understand its history. In recent times, although, as the member for Armadale said, in the distant past of not my father, but his father’s generation, there were core sources of animosity between the Catholics and the Prods, the Italians and others, and so forth and so on, which do not exist now. Indeed, in my electorate, 60 to 70 per cent of the people are non-Anglo Saxon and the level of harmony in the schools is profoundly positive, which, as the local

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

member, I can not only be proud of, but look to and know that we are doing something right. We are doing something right! And that something comes naturally to little kids, but as we grow older, differences sometimes gain more force. However, whatever we are doing in our communities to absorb large numbers of people of difference is positive. I have lived in many places in the world—America, Canada, Hawaii, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and other places—but no place has been as successful at not only absorbing but adopting and encouraging people to be a part of it as has Western Australia. We should sit back and enjoy a day to recognise our success in this way. One reason for our success is that we have adopted or adapted and created an open and inclusive society that is comfortable in its own history, culture and success; one that is not only open to people of difference, but that encourages people to participate. We do not reject people of other cultures; we bring them in. We say, “Join us.” We are an adaptive culture.

A benefit of Western Australia Day is the opportunity to reflect on our success and understand why we are successful. It also sends a signal to the people already living in our electorates, and to those who are coming to participate in the great experiment that is Western Australia, that they are welcome, that they have a part to play, that their task is in part to understand our history and to participate, and that they have to understand our values, the rule of law and our open democratic system of government. They must not only understand, but also join us and add value. That is one of the most important and significant tasks of our success story. Although changing the name from Foundation Day to WA Day may be a minor change, it is one that allows us to make a difference, to recognise our successes and to move forward. I very much welcome that change, as do the people I represent in the electorate of Riverton. I wish also to indicate that it must be more than a name change and that it must be followed up, albeit not with great fanfare or propaganda—keep the tokenism down. We must teach Western Australian history, focusing on that day and on our success, and follow that up with debate and discussion in the community. I welcome the positive attributes of this bill.

MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.48 pm]: I, too, have been listening to some of the speeches given this evening about the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011. I agree with the member for Pilbara that in hearing the speeches given tonight we have heard many different perspectives from people who, like me, have lived in Western Australia for a long time and seen the development of our state. I support changing the name from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day. However, I said to the Premier in the party room at the time that he announced this bill that I thought we would have to be very careful not to rewrite history—all the things that members have talked about, including the post-war migration that I was aware of when growing up in Fremantle and going to school alongside the kids who had come from Europe, including from Italy, Greece, the former Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Poland and Austria. It was different for them and they were challenging times for some of those kids because they were not readily accepted because they were different. We were only kids, and as young people we found it difficult to accept those who had come from strange countries. However, as a state and as a nation, we have grown and we now accept the people who come here from all parts of the world.

The first settlers arrived in Western Australia on board the *Parmelia* on 1 June 1829—one of the most significant days in the history of our state. I understand that the Aboriginal people were here before that date, but as the member for Murray–Wellington pointed out, what those early pioneers did to help the development of the state that we now enjoy can never be underestimated. In my electorate of South Perth we have a structure called the Old Mill, which was built in 1835—only six years after the foundation of the colony. It is the second oldest industrial site in Western Australia. That is a significant part of our history. When we celebrate Western Australia Day, I just hope that we still embrace what happened back then. I was recently in Adelaide and went down to Glenelg. They have a fantastic museum in Glenelg that re-creates the early settlement when the boats came in. The people landed and set up tents just off the beach, and then a surveyor went inland a bit and worked out that where the City of Adelaide is now would be a better place to set up. The South Australians remember that and have captured it in a great museum.

I would like our settlement history to not be forgotten as part of the celebration of Western Australia Day. We could have a re-creation of our early settlement, because it was so important in the development of our state. Obviously, we will also recognise the significant contribution of the first Western Australians and the contribution of the people who came out here in following years through the various periods of migration. I think this is a good idea; it is a step in the right direction. However, when we hear about the diverse history of the state and the important events that happened throughout the state in those early periods—how diverse and widespread they were—we could make Western Australia Day very significant. I have some concern that we also celebrate Australia Day. We are all Australians. We have songs that say we are one—we are all Australians. Maybe we will have to have a song that says we are one—we are all Western Australians. We have to be careful as we already have a big day of celebration as Australians, which we are. We have to make sure that this is not just a general celebration of being Western Australian but also includes our history. I suggested at a meeting with the

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

City of Perth that we should use the Old Mill site for a museum about early colonisation. A lot of Aboriginal people were living on the river flats around South Perth and also on the other side of the river. We could re-create all those stories and how the Old Mill was used to mill the wheat that was brought down by boat from the little farms that had started further up the Swan River. The City of Perth told me that it was planning a similar thing as part of the Perth foreshore development, which I believe is still in the plans. Whether it is on our side of the river or the city side of the river, it is significant. The fact that this legislation will be going through the Parliament will give the government the opportunity to set up some sort of planning committee to make sure that we celebrate the day in the right way.

I will not speak for much longer because the night is getting late, but there is one concern I have about the change from Foundation Day to Western Australia Day: what are we going to call the Foundation Day Derby? We might have to call it the East Fremantle Derby! As a Fremantle boy, the Foundation Day Derby was a big event between East Fremantle and South Fremantle. Obviously it will continue, but with a different name.

I support the legislation. I think it is a step in the right direction. I think the contributions from members have been good. Bring on Western Australia Day!

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [9.54 pm] — in reply: I will make some brief comments. I thank all members who have spoken on the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill and for the support they have given to it. It is probably the simplest bill that we will deal with during this term of government, but, as a number of members commented, it is a significant bill. I know that a number of members have thought about this. The debate or discussion we have just listened to has been quite unique in this Parliament. I agree with the comments made by the member for Pilbara: through this debate we have seen the diversity of backgrounds and life experiences of most members of Parliament. That is why it is an effective Parliament, because it does reflect the diversity and history of our community. I thank members for that.

I just want to pick up on a couple of points. The Leader of the Opposition spoke mainly about Grandparents Day. That is quite a nice idea; I do not have any objection to that. I do not think it should be enshrined in legislation, but if that grows through custom, I think it is a fair suggestion. There is no doubt that many grandparents are the primary carers of many children in this state for a variety of reasons.

The member for Mandurah expressed his support for the bill. He also made some comments about reinstating Western Australian honours and the like. I think there is an interesting issue here. We have always had citizen of the year awards in conjunction with Foundation Day and Western Australia Week. That has become complicated with the Australia Day awards now including a new category of Western Australian of the Year as a nomination into the Australian of the Year. We basically have two awards recognising or acknowledging outstanding Western Australians. I have been talking particularly to Adam Gilchrist, who chairs the Western Australian component of that, about bringing them together. I think we could be flexible in the categories, so that around what will be Western Australia Day and Western Australia Week we actually nominate the Western Australian of the Year, who will automatically go forward as our nomination for Australian of the Year. I think it is silly to have two awards. It is confusing to the public and detracts from the recognition of individuals. That is an element that is being worked on.

The member for Victoria Park focused, among his comments, on the recognition of Aboriginal people. This is a part of the legislation that does deserve some acknowledgment. When I introduced a similar private member's bill a few years back, it did not include this part. I will just read it to members. The bill states —

Foundation Day —

Which will become Western Australia 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 gives recognition to Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants and traditional custodians and to the people who have come to Western Australia since. That is important. To the best of my knowledge, that is the first formal recognition of Aboriginal people as traditional custodians in the statute books of Western Australia. I will check that, but I think that is the case and is therefore of significance. I thank the member for Victoria Park for his comments.

The member for Jandakot talked about the need to better coordinate public holidays in Australia. That was a fair suggestion. We can do better. The member for West Swan spoke about Western Australia Week. Western Australia Week will certainly go up a notch or two this year as the first year of being built around Western Australia Day, but I think we will see a very significant change in 2013 once these and other changes are in place. Hopefully that will gain, not equality with Australia Day—I do not think that is appropriate—but greater

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Paul Papalia;
Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Tom Stephens; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Colin Barnett

resonance in the community. The member for Warnbro made some comments about the national psyche and the like. The member for Albany supported his local community and 1826. The member for Armadale and a number of other members talked about the different characters, nationalities and cultures in our country, which is a strength. The member for Murray–Wellington and the member for Riverton made similar comments. The member for Murray–Wellington stressed some of the history of the state through the early settlers, pioneers and explorers of those early years. I do not believe that that history will be lost. If Western Australia Day increases in significance, I hope and expect also to see a greater significance placed on that history. The renaming of Foundation Day to Western Australia Day is intended to reflect a more contemporary Western Australia and to recognise the role of Indigenous people and those who came here after the British settlers, and it is also looking with aspiration to the future. Many members and I have expressed the importance of maintaining that historic record. I have already commented on the member for Pilbara's contribution, and the member for South Perth again reflected on the history of his electorate.

I thank members for their support for the bill. It has received bipartisan support, which is important, because a change in some of the symbolism and the way in which the state is celebrated should be agreed to across the Parliament. I thank members and look forward to this legislation being in place so that this year, for the first time, 1 June will be formally and legally known as Western Australia Day.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr C.J. Barnett (Premier)**, and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.01 pm
