

House: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL- ADDRESS-IN-REPLY
Date: 3.32 PM THURSDAY, 13 March 1997
Member: Carstairs, Hon Alan
Subject: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - MOTION
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ADDRESS

HON A.M. CARSTAIRS (North Metropolitan) [3.32 pm]: Mr President, the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tom Stephens, and honourable members of the House: I support the motion thanking the Governor, Major General Jeffery, for his speech which he delivered on opening day and I thank this Chamber for the opportunity to address this distinguished arm of government.

Although I will be in this place for only a short time I hope it will be a memorable time and one upon which I can reflect with affection. I have always been interested in politics, but more as a backroom person helping others to enter Parliament in various Houses, be it State or Federal. However, due to tragic circumstances surrounding one of the members of this House I find myself at the coalface in this House and it is somewhere I certainly did not expect to be. I feel humbled that I am here because of the sudden death of a distinguished person some three years ago.

I have had personal contact with many members of this House, particularly those on this side, and they have given me some background to what politics is all about. They have also given me background to what should happen in Parliament and public life. Rather than be too political I will outline from where I have come and what I have done in public life.

I came north to the city of Wanneroo some 34 years ago to captain-coach the Wanneroo football team after it had been admitted to the expanded Sunday football league, which is now operating as the Sunday Football League of Western Australia. Having left East Perth to play football for a club which was so far out in the sticks I found it quite an experience and fell in love with Wanneroo and have lived there ever since. My ties to Wanneroo go back to the turn of the century. I have always had a great affinity with the area. Some of the residents of the area were friends of mine before I moved there.

My grandfather, Mr Tom Simpson, once owned 3 154 acres of land which is now known as the suburbs of Whitford, Hillarys, Kallaroo, Craigie, Padbury and North Shore. It is a pity he did not hang onto the land a little longer; if he had, I may not be here today. However, the area known as Mullaloo beach where the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club is located was not fenced by my grandfather because in those days one had to use a horse and dray to fence one's property. The then roads board asked my grandfather to fence it and rather than do that he donated the land to the council on the condition that it became public open space for recreation. It is the grassed area in front of the Mullaloo surf club.

When I was elected to the council I was fortunate enough to have the park named after my grandfather and I am very proud about that. He was a great member of the community and without being too one-eyed I will say a few words about him. I hold him in very high regard and there are few others I hold in such high regard. My grandfather was very community minded and spent 39 years as a founding member, president and vice-president of the Western Australian Trotting Association. He was honoured with life membership for his achievements and his foundation of the Golden Mile Trotting Club, of which he was a member for 10 years. He was also instrumental in founding the Pinjarra Trotting Club. I am

proud of his work in the community and I have followed the same family tradition.

My involvement in sport gave way to a strong desire to give something back to sport and the community. I was president of the Wanneroo Junior Football Club and am proud to be a life member of that club. I was President of the Wanneroo Boy Scouts and Wanneroo Football Club, which is now in the Sunday Football League, and I was a member of the local ratepayers' association. I am also an honorary member of the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club with which I have been associated for many years. I was instrumental in the club getting the building from which it now operates. It is one of the better surf clubs in Western Australia.

Due to my involvement at a grass roots level in the community I became interested in and sought a position as a councillor of the City of Wanneroo. I served on the council for three years. I spent one year on the town planning and community services committee and I was chairman of the technical services committee for two years. My term on the council made me aware of the needs of the local community. This led me to become involved in groups such as the Burns Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association and I became a delegate to the Swan Regional Fire Protection Committee, the Bush Fires Advisory Board, the Wanneroo Junior Council and the Local Government Association as a member of the policy and resources committee and the environmental committee.

My current involvement in the community is deputy chairman of the aged persons home trust in the City of Wanneroo. I am a past charter member of the Joondalup Lions Club and currently I am vice president of the Wanneroo Agricultural Society. We all know the story about numbers and if they are right tomorrow night I should become the president of that organisation.

I have been a justice of the peace for five or six years and I used to do duty roster at the Joondalup courts once a week. Unfortunately my wife and I were involved in a head on car collision on 13 August last year. My wife was gravely injured and I did not come out of it very well. I have taken my name off that roster and do not intend to put my name back on it until I leave this House.

My service to the community has been fulfilling, but could not have been achieved without the support of my family and friends. I take this opportunity to thank some of these people. First, I thank my wife for her tireless effort in supporting me in my endeavours. I commend her for her record of nine years as President of the Moore Women's Division of the Liberal Party. Without her support our participation in the local community could not have been achieved. Shirley is a rare person.

I thank my three children: Alan Charles, who is at present in the Northern Territory working in the mining field, my daughter Leanne and my son William for their patience and understanding of the times I was absent from my home while volunteering my time to the local community. They have turned out to be upstanding citizens of the community. I thank other members of my family, particularly my brother Tom, who served on the council of the City of Wanneroo for six years and has been involved in community affairs for over 20 years. Tom is currently the President of the Connolly Residents Association and he is doing a good job.

I cannot continue without saying thanks to mum. My mother is in her eighty-fourth year and finds it rather difficult to get about. Until a few years ago, when this affliction came upon her, she was always there for me, especially in supporting us and for the work they have done carrying the flag in that area. I am sure coalition and opposition members know what volunteer work is all about and recognise the

contribution those volunteers make towards the House - a contribution that we never see.

I thank members on both sides for their indulgence. I wish them all good health and godspeed for their term in Parliament. I hope the spirit of the Chamber continues after 21 May and that members let the Assembly govern to the mandate it now has from the people and the Council continues to cross the t's and dot the i's so that we are not a rubber stamp, but a true House of Review.

[Applause.]