

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [11.09 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Balingup, World Peace Structures

HON CHRISTINE SHARP (South West) [11.09 pm]: Before the House adjourns I would like to report on some activities that occurred in my home town of Balingup last weekend, because I am rather proud of them. We formally opened two different structures dedicated to world peace. The first and significant structure is that of a world peace pagoda. The stupa, constructed in the traditional Burmese Buddhist manner, is situated at The Origins Centre in Jayes Road, Balingup, which is a Buddhist teaching centre.

The stupa - the World Peace Pagoda - has been planned for several years, and there have been considerable delays in advancing the project. These delays have been principally connected to the difficulty of obtaining visas for Burmese Buddhists to come to Australia to provide the expertise in the construction of the pagoda. However, it seems that the two-year delay was in the end most appropriate, because it has turned out that the timing of the construction and dedication of the World Peace Pagoda at Balingup is now incredibly apt and appropriate after the conditions that have erupted since the activities at the World Trade Center on 11 September. The construction work was supervised by two abbots from Burma, U Dana Lankar and U Agizina Under, who followed the method developed by Sayadaw Uthila Wunta, one of the most senior Buddhists in Burma. He was also the teacher of Namygal Rinpoche, who is a senior teacher at The Origins Centre in Balingup. The stupa construction began on 19 November and was completed with its blessing and dedications on Sunday, 2 December. It is a monument to compassion and loving kindness.

One particularly marvellous thing was that in the development of the project the people at The Origins Centre contacted the Burmese community out of courtesy to inform them of the construction of the stupa and to invite them to be involved. That took place, and there have been visits by various members of the Burmese community to The Origins Centre to assist in the construction of the World Peace Pagoda. During that process the Burmese community offered to the project a very special umbrella. The umbrella refers to the part of the stupa that is at the very summit, which is the apex of the construction. It is an elaborate design. It is called an umbrella not because it looks like an umbrella, for it is a pointed structure, but because it represents the shelter that is offered by an umbrella.

The umbrella that was placed as the final part of the construction on Saturday was a special umbrella. It was presented to Australia by the Burmese ambassador Dr U Aung Than, who retired in 1987. When he left Australia he promised that he would make available an umbrella for the construction of a world peace pagoda. When he returned to his native country he commissioned that work and subsequently the umbrella was constructed. The umbrella was taken by foot throughout Burma to receive blessings from the various Buddhist monasteries. Finally it was sent to its destination in Australia to be the pinnacle of a stupa. Unfortunately, at the time, that project did not come to fruition. The Burmese community did not have the resources or the land to bring the ambassador's dream to fruition, so the umbrella had been put into storage. When the Burmese community became aware of the construction of the pagoda at The Origins Centre in Balingup, they invited the centre to use this very special and very beautiful umbrella, which has now been installed in Balingup. It is right next to the Bibbulmun Track. It is hoped that it will inspire many people who are walking through the bush and looking for peace, both internally and externally. It is open to everybody. The structure is dominated by a shape representing a bell. In the Buddhist tradition the bell represents wisdom. The tradition says that if people visit this stupa and walk around it nine times in a clockwise direction, this will promote peace and loving kindness in the world.

While all this was happening about a kilometre out of town, on the South West Highway in Balingup another ceremony was taking place, which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs in Western Australia - the opening of a peace pergola. The pergola has been constructed next to the war memorial on the South West Highway in Balingup. It is the result of several years of planning, particularly by community member, Mr Bob Bracey. After various efforts Mr Bracey obtained a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs for \$3 500, which, although it was not as much as was needed, was enough to buy the materials. With voluntary labour, a pergola was built next to the simple war memorial in the centre of our town. The construction took place during the winter and the main structure was completed in early September. Then the events of 11 September took place. Another member of our community, Councillor Jan Helsham, was seeking a venue at that time to conduct prayers on a Sunday morning for world peace because of the concern over the Afghani crisis and the refugee crisis. She was looking for somewhere to pull the community together, to sit and to contemplate the need for peace. She asked whether she could use the very new pergola next to the war memorial, so the idea was born that this pergola should be a peace pergola. It now has a big sign up saying

“Peace Pergola”, and the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans’ Affairs opened our Peace Pergola at the same time as the World Peace Pagoda was opened. That is pretty special and really demonstrates the community aspirations of Balingup. I am very proud of what happens there.

Gosnells Safe City Initiative - Adjournment Debate

HON DERRICK TOMLINSON (East Metropolitan) [11.19 pm]: I am sorry that some members have expressed disappointment at my exercising my right to speak in the adjournment debate. However, I believe the House should be made aware of a very important initiative by the City of Gosnells, which was launched at a breakfast in the presence of the Premier of Western Australia, Dr Geoff Gallop, on Friday, 30 November. That is the City of Gosnells Safe City initiative. The reasons I bring this to the attention of the House are multiple. First, I want to put on record my appreciation and admiration of the work of the City of Gosnells. Secondly, I want to impress upon the House - I was about to say the Government, but it is something that this and future Governments need to take note of - the emphasis upon crime prevention in the City of Gosnells rather than the emphasis upon the punishment of crime, which has characterised the initiatives of Western Australian Governments for the past decade. The difference between those two approaches needs to be taken on board by Governments now and in the future; they must put greater emphasis on prevention rather than punishment.

Hon Christine Sharp: Hear, hear!

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: The member should not interject when she is standing out of her place. It is naughty!

The third reason is to show how the principles of the Livable Neighbourhoods program, developed by the then Ministry for Planning over the lifetime of the previous Government, can be put to practical use, not only to improve urban design but also to create livable neighbourhoods, and in the case of the City of Gosnells a safe neighbourhood.

To develop this safe city urban design strategy, the City of Gosnells on its own initiative undertook a two-year program of research. It required the cooperation of the Western Australia Police Service, the then Ministry of Planning - now the Department for Planning and Infrastructure - and the facilities and services of the City of Gosnells. The City of Gosnells used a computer modelling program or technique that goes under the name of Space Syntax, which simply enables the layout of an urban area, or in this case the City of Gosnells, to be manipulated in particular ways according to different parameters that might be fed into it.

The most important data that were fed into the Space Syntax manipulation were the data on crime in the City of Gosnells. The distribution of crime in the City of Gosnells according to its urban structure, applied to the Livable Neighbourhood principles developed by the then Ministry of Planning, enabled the City of Gosnells to project an alternative design for the city that minimised crime.

How does one minimise crime through urban design? The first proposition is that most urban crime is opportunistic crime. The most prevalent and most worrisome crime is break and enter. If, as was possible in the City of Gosnells, the incidence of break and enter can be plotted on the urban landscape, so-called hot spots can be identified. If the hot spots of crime - those places where there is a higher than average incidence of criminality - can be located and their characteristics identified, remediation of those hot spots might be possible by redesigning and redevelopment.

Some of the things that the City of Gosnells discovered were not surprising. If locations in a city are poorly lit, inaccessible or dark laneways, there is a high incidence of crime. If there is very little surveillance, there is a high incidence of crime. One of the interesting things that the City of Gosnells found is that surveillance need not necessarily mean a police patrol or a security patrol; it can be something as simple as people walking up and down a street. They found that where there were public open spaces encouraging people to walk, there was surveillance and a low incidence of crime. Where people were discouraged from walking, there was a high incidence of crime.

Another of the surprising things that the City of Gosnells found was that those houses with high walls around them have a high incidence of break and enter. Those without walls or without shrubbery have a low incidence of break and enter. Those urban developments which are popular and in which a resplendent development is protected by a wall encourage break and enter. Open urban developments do not encourage break and enter.

I strongly urge members to read the work of the City of Gosnells on urban design strategy because it is a very valuable instrument that has been developed by the initiative of the city to minimise crime. I return to my opening point. Much crime is opportunistic. If the opportunity can be removed, the incidence of crime will correspondingly diminish. The City of Gosnells has demonstrated that the opportunities for crime can be minimised by good urban design, by taking account of the characteristics of urban design that encourage

opportunistic crime. If we can minimise opportunistic crime, and minimise crime, the cost savings are very substantial. Not merely financial cost savings -

Hon B.K. Donaldson: There is the saving on trauma.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Of course. Let us consider the question of graffiti. We spend a lot of money scrubbing graffiti off walls when, with good urban design, we can minimise graffiti. How do we do it? It is by creating suburbs and communities in which people are encouraged to get out and walk, in which the streets are well lit and safe and there is surveillance. I seek permission to table this report. I encourage all members to read it and proselytise their communities.

Leave granted. [See paper No 973.]

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.29 pm
