

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY — CEMETERIES

628. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Local Government:

Can the minister advise the house how we are keeping our young people interested in our state's history?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

I thank the member for the question. Before I answer that question about our state's history, I take this opportunity as the Minister for Communities to acknowledge carers in our community. This week is Carers Week. The member for Mandurah and I attended a lunch on Tuesday to recognise the 310 000 carers in our community. It is great to be able to recognise the great work they do in the community.

Believe it or not, as the Minister for Local Government I am responsible for cemeteries. The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board has done a fantastic display of —

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I know; exactly.

There are history walk displays at Karrakatta and Fremantle Cemeteries. I imagine that most members do not associate the cemetery with anything but sad times such as the passing of a family friend —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Not if you're a Bon Scott fan!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I am glad the Treasurer said that, because there is a tour that people can now do through the Fremantle Cemetery. The cemetery has set up a quick response code for smart phones. People can scan the display at the cemetery gravestones and it gives a little history about each of the people in the cemetery. There are two tours; one at Karrakatta and one at Fremantle. The Treasurer was spot on; C.Y. O'Connor and Bon Scott are some of the people buried at the Fremantle Cemetery, along with Moondyne Joe. People can read about their history. It is a great way to get kids interacting with and learning about our history, especially at Karrakatta, where Sir John Forrest, Edith Cowan, Sir Charles Gairdner and a few other historical figures were buried. The best thing about this whole design is that people now have the opportunity to learn a bit of history when they go to the Karrakatta and Fremantle Cemeteries. People can scan the codes with their smart phones or iPads and do the tour on their own. I encourage people to go on those tours. I acknowledge the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board for thinking outside the box a bit and coming up with this idea.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Outside the box!

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: A coffin box; exactly! This is quite a good new way of interacting with the community and getting people into our cemeteries. I acknowledge their work.