

Hon Kim Chance; Hon Norman Moore; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Barry House; Hon Shelley Archer; Hon Kate Doust; Hon Ken Travers; Hon Barbara Scott; Hon Simon O'Brien; President

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**HON PHILLIP GEORGE PENDAL**

*Condolence Motion*

**HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural — Leader of the House)** [10.01 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Phillip George Pendal, a former member of the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation for his long service and tenders its profound sympathy to his wife, Maxine, his three children and his two grandchildren in their bereavement.

Hon Phillip Pendal had a long and illustrious parliamentary career spanning 25 years in both houses of this Parliament. He first became a member of the Legislative Council in 1980 as a member for South-East Metropolitan Province. In 1983 he was elected as a member of South Central Metropolitan Province before representing the South Metropolitan Region from 1989 to 1993, after which he moved to represent the constituents of South Perth in the other place.

During his time in this house he held various shadow ministerial portfolios with distinction. He earned the respect of all parties and both sides of politics as a genuine and dedicated parliamentarian. He also served on a number of Legislative Council committees. I served with him on one of those committees, the Legislative Council Select Committee on *Batavia* Relics. That was my first parliamentary committee and I retain very fond memories of the work that we did, together with Hon Derrick Tomlinson, on what we called the “old wrecks committee”. The committee’s common name referred, of course, to the subject of our inquiry and not, as some supposed, to the committee’s membership.

Members would also be aware of Phil’s work as a historian and an author, which has provided an invaluable record of a number of his areas of interest in his South Perth stomping grounds and of the history of our Parliament. Phil was an astute thinker and a formidable debater. He had the historian’s gift of the capacity to intertwine past, present and predicted events in a cogent and logical sequence.

Phil was fond of reminding us that as a journalist with paid-up affiliation to his profession’s union, then the Australian Journalists Association, he regularly covered meetings of the Australian Labor Party’s state executive, which remains open to the media. Although he joined the Liberal Party in 1971, he probably had a better understanding of how the Labor Party worked than many members of the ALP did. Those attributes that Phil had of that broad cast of knowledge and that broad contact with a range of people gave him a unique political perspective, which led to his views on a range of issues being widely sought by the public and by the media. He had a unique perspective of the world.

Phil will be very sorely missed and I take this opportunity on behalf of his colleagues and his friends in this place to express the government’s deepest sympathy and compassion to Maxine, his children and grandchildren for their sad and premature loss.

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the Opposition)** [10.05 am]: I wish to join the Leader of the House in supporting this motion of condolence. Last Tuesday, more than 600 people attended a requiem mass for Hon Phillip George Pendal. Among the mourners were the Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael, and the Catholic Archbishop of Perth, Barry Hickey. The presence of the Governor and the Archbishop and the huge number of mourners was a clear reflection of the esteem in which Hon Phillip Pendal was held in the Western Australian community and, in particular, South Perth.

Phil Pendal was a member of the state Parliament for 25 years from 1980 to 2005. He was a great contributor to the Parliament and a conscientious member of both its houses, and he was also, through his literary skill, one of its historians. Our records show that in the history of this Parliament, 45 members have served as members of both this house and the Legislative Assembly. On closer examination, it is apparent that most of those members gave their major contribution to one house and often served only a single term in the other house. Phillip Pendal’s record of 25 years’ service, however, was divided evenly between the two chambers—13 years as an MLC and 12 years as an MLA. His notable contribution to the Legislative Council was far from being simply a prelude to a career in the Legislative Assembly.

Phil Pendal was born and initially educated in Bunbury, where he later was to return as a journalist with the *South Western Times*. After experience as a clerical worker and bank clerk, he found his chosen career as a journalist working in the south west and as a political roundsman for the *Daily News*. His commitment to politics led him to serve as assistant press secretary to Sir Charles Court and as press secretary to Hon Bill Grayden and Hon Ray O’Connor as Ministers for Labour and Industry from 1977 to 1980.

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As a most committed and active member of the Liberal Party's Swan and Tangney divisions after 1971, Phil Pental had the unusual distinction of being preselected unopposed to contest the very winnable Legislative Council seat of South-East Metropolitan Province in the 1980 election. The electorate consisted of the Assembly districts of South Perth, Clontarf, Murdoch and Gosnells and extended as far as Coolbellup and Armadale. The region's representation in those days was shared between Hon Clive Griffiths, a Liberal, and Hon Grace Vaughan from the Labor Party. Phillip Pental proved a skilled campaigner and was elected with a majority of more than 4 000 votes out of some 65 000. A redistribution of boundaries resulted in his transfer to the new, more complex South Central Metropolitan Province in 1983, consisting of the seats of South Perth, Victoria Park, Clontarf and East Melville. When Phil's term expired in 1986, he was comfortably re-elected with an absolute majority of 2 000 votes. Subsequently, in 1989, with the first election under proportional representation, Phillip Pental was elected to the South Metropolitan Region.

In the early 1980s, as a newly elected MLC, Phillip Pental was a member of the select committee that examined the desirability of a standing committee on government agencies—the very first standing committee in this house. He served as a member of that standing committee. Along with the late Hon Bob Pike, Phillip Pental was a strong and effective proponent of the committee system, which they saw as a very necessary role for this house. Our present committee structure owes much to them both. Overall, Phil had a strong sense of the dignity of the Legislative Council and its important role as a house of review. Phillip was also a passionate federalist who constantly and vigorously opposed the centralist tendencies that have been a feature of all federal governments since Federation. He attended both of the constitutional conventions that were held in the 1980s; one in Adelaide in 1983 and one in Brisbane in 1985. During the Adelaide convention, a group, which included Phil and me, shared lunch at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills. At that lunch we declared ourselves to be the inaugural members of “The Hahndorf Conspiracy”—a group of members determined to reverse the centralism that pervaded the Adelaide convention. We in the conspiracy fervently believed that it was time for strident action to defend the states. Regrettably, the conspiracy lasted for only the duration of what was a long and very pleasant lunch! In all seriousness, Phil was a great supporter of federalism, just as he was of bicameral Parliaments. A February 2007 article in *The West Australian* in which he defended and supported the role of the Legislative Council was both a timely and well-considered reminder of our value as a house to law-making and good governance in Western Australia.

Phil's strong convictions were a part of his Catholic faith, and from 1968 he was a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross. He was awarded the “Papal Honour of the Cross for the Church and the Pontiff” in 2005. At that time he was quoted as saying —

I was always able to remember that Jesus told us to preach the gospel to every creature, but did not tell us to belt the tripe out of them until they agree with us.

Early in his career he took a firm stance on the abolition of the death penalty, and he later fought the legalisation of abortion. Only recently he eloquently defended the right of members to exercise a conscience vote.

Most fittingly, Phillip Pental was a member of the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee from 1984 and the Library Committee from 1982 to 1993. His commitment to the Parliamentary Library, both during and after his terms in Parliament, was quite outstanding.

He was a shadow minister in 1983-84 and again from 1986 to 1993. As a member of the leadership group in this latter time, he took a strong and consistent line in seeking a royal commission into WA Inc. As shadow Minister for the Environment, he was given credit for strong policies for the 1993 election campaign. He took a keen and perceptive interest in the importance of India to the Western Australian economy—perhaps a little ahead of his time.

Phillip Pental was preselected as the Liberal candidate for the seat of South Perth in 1992 and commenced his further career in the Legislative Assembly after the 1993 election. In 1995 he chose to become an Independent member of the Legislative Assembly and was re-elected as an Independent in 1996 and 2001—an obvious reflection of the affection in which he was held in South Perth.

Throughout his 25 years as a parliamentarian, he continued to represent the City of South Perth. He found time to contribute to the history of that community in his writings and through the establishment of a museum dedicated to the author May Gibbs. He had a great sense of history, both local and parliamentary, and the ability to bring to life such subjects as the histories of Catholic education, the South Perth Community Hospital and the Royal Perth Golf Club. In 2006 Phil Pental was made as an Honorary Freeman of the City of South Perth, an acknowledgement of his ongoing efforts to support and promote the history of the city. On that occasion, John Collins, the city's mayor, said —

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Due to the prized contribution that Mr Pental has made to the City's community through his superb leadership, commitment, and wise counsel and support, the City proudly records this testimonial of respect and esteem—binding him as an Honorary Freeman of the City, . . .

His distinctive contributions to the publications *House to House* and *Parliament: Mirror of the People?* will live on as most valuable records that tell the stories of otherwise forgotten members who make up the history of this place. Phillip's untimely death will deprive our state of a notable parliamentary historian.

On behalf of the opposition, I extend our condolences to his wife, Maxine, and to their children, Sasha, Simon and Narisha, in this time of great loss and sadness.

**HON GIZ WATSON (North Metropolitan)** [10.14 am]: I too wish to join in support of this condolence motion for Hon Phil Pental. I did not work directly with Phil in the time that I have been a member of Parliament; however, I appreciated his support and friendship. He was certainly a good friend to me and my Greens (WA) colleagues in this place. He was very interested in the role that the Greens party play in Parliament. I note Phil's passion for the parliamentary processes and democratic structures in this state, and I enjoyed many a good conversation with him about his thoughts on and knowledge of this area. I was saddened and shocked to learn of his untimely death and I want to put on the record the condolences from the Greens (WA) to his family.

**HON WENDY DUNCAN (Agricultural)** [10.15 am]: I also join other honourable members in conveying condolences to Hon Phillip Pental's family. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Phillip Pental, but last week I had the opportunity to hear Professor David Black speak about his long relationship with Phillip Pental. From that, I learnt that he was a man who not only had some very strong views and great ideas but also was able to make sure that they happened. He followed projects right through to their conclusion, particularly in his electorate of South Perth and, of course, in his work with the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee. I know that Professor David Black had a huge amount of respect for Hon Phillip Pental and I was honoured to take part in that conversation and to learn of the contribution that Hon Phillip Pental made to the Western Australian parliamentary process and to the recording of its history. On behalf of the Nationals, I, too, extend condolences to his wife, Maxine, and family.

**HON BARRY HOUSE (South West)** [10.16 am]: I also join in support of this condolence motion at the sudden, untimely and sad passing of Phillip Pental. Firstly, in terms of his links with the south west, Phillip was a member of the very prolific and influential Buswell family, from Bunbury primarily, but spread throughout the south west. He went to school in Bunbury at the then Marist Brothers College, which is now the Bunbury Catholic College. He got his start in journalism at the *South Western Times*, based in Bunbury. It was terrific to see his still many friends from Bunbury and surrounding areas at his funeral on Tuesday.

My first contacts with Phillip were in 1987 at the by-election at which I was elected to this house. As an ex-journalist, Phillip took charge of the media requirements during that campaign. He produced numerous media releases and stories and pumped out, at that time via new fax machines, many very impressive comments from me on a wide range of issues! He initiated many contacts for me within the media so that I appeared to have opinions on many things and he tutored me in how to sound like an expert on radio and television and in the media in general. That election win belonged to people like Phillip Pental and Barry MacKinnon, the Leader of the Liberal Party at that time.

Phillip was one of my early mentors in this house along with Gordon Masters, Norman Moore and Philip Lockyer. In my early couple of years as a member, they are the people from whom I learnt the most about being a parliamentarian. It seems that we had a bit more fun then than we have today. I well recall doing some serious things with people of that ilk at the time, but we had a much more collegiate and fun type of atmosphere with it. On one occasion, Phillip, Norman and I drove to the "Cue Parliament", where we met Philip Lockyer. That was a very valuable experience for a young parliamentarian. We learnt just how important it was to look after our regions and the key stakeholders in our regions. People like Jimmy Price probably commanded more respect than the Premier of the day, certainly in those parts of the world. Phil Pental was certainly of enormous assistance to me and many other people on parliamentary procedure, Parliament's conventions and standing orders, and what this Parliament is all about.

As has already been said, Phillip was a very eloquent, powerful and passionate speaker. He was very strongly principled. He always assessed issues on their merits and from an ethical perspective. Phillip had a very strong sense of humour. Some of his sayings stick with me to this day, such as, "I can resist anything except temptation." Whenever the topic of exercise was raised, I can recall him saying things such as, "I went for a jog once and didn't think much of it so I gave it away."

Phillip was very strongly aligned to Barry MacKinnon, the Leader of the Opposition at the time. In many respects, the Liberal Party did not treat Phillip Pental fairly after the leadership changed to Richard Court in

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1992. Phillip made the decision to leave the Legislative Council and move to the Legislative Assembly. I think that was done largely in the belief that it would strengthen his rightful claim to a position as a minister in the government that was formed in 1993. We all know now that he was unfairly overlooked for a ministry in that government. He would have made an excellent minister and the Court government would have been a better government with Phillip Pendal in that ministry. To add insult to injury—I think this was the last straw for Phillip—he was duded for the consolation prize, the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee in the Legislative Assembly, when the members of that committee deserted an agreement that Phillip would be the chairman of the committee. I can understand his annoyance and frustration when he left the Liberal Party to sit as an Independent in the Legislative Assembly. The Court government was worse off during those eight years for not having Phillip Pendal as a central part of its ministry.

Phillip continued to be an outstanding parliamentarian and representative for South Perth. He was an advocate for many worthwhile causes and a loyal friend to many, and he had the respect and admiration of all. I suspect he still had much to do and had embarked on many projects. He successfully completed some of them. In his usual energetic, involved way, he pursued many personal, historical and other pursuits. Phillip Pendal will be sorely missed. My condolences are extended to Maxine, his children, his extended family and his many friends.

**HON SHELLEY ARCHER (Mining and Pastoral)** [10.22 am]: I did not know Phillip Pendal when he was a member of Parliament but I certainly got to know him over the past six months after he contacted me to give me some advice on how to work as an Independent in this place. I would like to thank him for his guidance and his wise words about how I could achieve some change in this place as an Independent. Without some of his wise words, his guidance and the many emails he sent me, I would not have been able to achieve what I have in the short time I have been an Independent in this place. I offer my condolences to his family.

**HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary)** [10.23 am]: I would also like to add my voice to the condolence motion for Hon Phillip Pendal. When I entered this place in 2001, Phillip was one of the first people I met. We shared some common ground, as we both had very strong concerns about life issues. For the past seven years I was very fortunate to get to know Phil and to be able to regard him as a friend. I was saying to Hon Norman Moore yesterday that Phillip even gave me advice on remodelling my electorate office, and so it was done.

Phil was very generous to me as an upper house member. His seat formed part of my region. Surprisingly, as a former Liberal member and an Independent, he went out of his way to make sure that I knew whom I should deal with in the seat of South Perth. He introduced me to the key leaders in that community. He also ensured that I knew about any issues that needed to be raised and that I took them up primarily on his behalf. On the Thursday before he passed away we attended a pro-life rally together and I informed him that I had finalised a matter he had taken up with me some time ago to gain funding for the South Perth Community Hospital, of which he had been a long-term board member.

Phil provided great guidance to me in not only how the Parliament operates but also how to deal with matters in which we shared a common interest. Phil, Hon Barbara Scott and some members in the other place formed a cross-party group of members of Parliament who have the same views on right-to-life issues. We meet on a regular basis when dealing with legislation and we meet outside the Parliament. We have formed quite strong bonds. That was affirmed during Phil's requiem mass on Tuesday when it was recounted during a eulogy that Hon Tom Stephens and Phil Pendal started out as foes in this place but ended up being quite strong friends not only because of their Catholic faith and because they attended the same chapel together each Sunday, but also because they worked closely together when dealing with a range of legislation. They overcame some of the political boundaries that we normally have set in place.

I have enjoyed Phil's good company and I note members' reference to his good humour. If Phil were around, perhaps he would have had a chuckle on Tuesday at some of the comments that were made at his requiem. It was interesting to see on Tuesday the vast and diverse range of people who attended his mass to acknowledge and celebrate his life. There were people from not just one political party but a range of parties and various people from the community, particularly from South Perth, and from academia, the law and other professions. They acknowledged the value of the work that Phil had done and his contribution to not only their lives but also the community.

Phillip will be missed as a leader in Western Australia's Catholic community. The very important role he played as a Catholic member of Parliament was acknowledged in 2005 when he was made a papal knight. Until then I had not been aware of the existence of papal knights and I was very honoured to be invited by Phillip to attend the function at which he was given that award. At that function both Phil and Bill McNee were honoured by the church and were recognised for the work that they had done.

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Phil was a man of principle, integrity and strong faith. Through his faith he was able to enunciate his views and to fight for those who are most vulnerable in our society, particularly the unborn. He demonstrated a consistent view on the importance of life by crossing the floor to abolish capital punishment and by his work to oppose the abortion legislation and also the stem cell legislation in 2004. After he left Parliament, Phillip provided those of us who call ourselves pro-lifers with a very strong backup and support. He enabled us to access a network of other people outside this place to provide us with more support. When the Human Reproductive Technology Amendment Bill 2007 was defeated a few weeks ago, Phil was both surprised and very pleased. I do not think he thought that legislation of that type would ever be defeated in this Parliament. We always took the view that if we could at least tighten that sort of legislation, we would have achieved something. I know that he was very pleased to see that people could be persuaded, regardless of where they came from or their religious or other views, to vote against that sort of legislation. On that basis I am glad that Phil was around to see what we were able to achieve.

The community of South Perth will miss Phil. His great contribution to South Perth was recognised by the City of South Perth when it made him an honorary freeman in 2006. Again, I was fortunate to attend that function at which he was given that honour. He is still highly regarded by the South Perth community. Even after his retirement Phil continued to work in a range of areas on behalf of those who live in South Perth. He will continue to be well regarded in that community. It is not common for members of Parliament to be so well regarded and to make such a strong and visible difference to their communities. He was indeed one of those people.

Phil returned to his literary roots a few years ago. He penned a number of readable and well-drafted books. I particularly refer to the South Perth Community Hospital book that he wrote called *Hands That Heal: The Story of a Unique Australian — the community-owned South Perth Hospital*. For a historical novel it is an enjoyable read. Phil had just had his book about the history of the Royal Perth Golf Club published and he had just completed writing a book about the history of Catholic education in this state. I look forward to reading that in due course. As I said to Dr Harry Phillips, I hope Phil had the opportunity to complete his memoirs before he passed away. That is something that people do not always think about. His memoirs would be an interesting read.

After Phil's retirement I would see him from time to time in and around my electorate office. He would often drop in for coffee, sometimes alone or sometimes with his grandchildren, Oscar and Mayr, with whom he spent a lot of time. He and Maxine thoroughly enjoyed being grandparents. Phil always spoke very highly of his three children, Sasha, Narisha and Simon. He was very proud of them and their achievements. He will be sorely missed by them.

As a Labor member I acknowledge the support, guidance and friendship that Phillip Pandal gave me. I shall miss him.

**HON KEN TRAVERS (North Metropolitan)** [10.33 am]: Many members have outlined the high regard with which Phil was held by members in this place. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the number of current and former members who attended the mass and Phil's burial on Tuesday. One of the things I noticed, which is the ultimate test for all of us as members of Parliament, was the number of current and former staff members who attended. That spoke volumes for the way in which Phil was regarded.

Before I was a member of Parliament—when I was an observer of Western Australian politics—I noticed Phil's mark on this state. He has many lasting legacies. Even though Phil never achieved as high an office as many other members of Parliament, he has left a remarkable legacy in policy initiatives that many of us can only dream about being able to achieve. The Leader of the House mentioned the select committee that he served on with Phil, which led to legislation to protect shipwrecks in the waters off this state. I refer to the Select Committee on *Batavia* Relics, and there was also the Select Committee on Ancient Shipwrecks.

Before I was elected to Parliament and before I got to know Phil, I remember Phil releasing a statement in 1992 calling for the return of swans to the Swan River. That policy was eventually implemented. To this day when I ride around the river and notice swans I recall that it was Phil Pandal who released the policy calling for the return of swans to the Swan River. That is something we should remember.

He developed the wild rivers policy, which started to deal with issues such as salinity and the integration and management of rivers. Again, I acknowledge those policies that came out when Phil was an opposition spokesperson. Various pieces of legislation were put in place and expenditure was allocated as a result of those policies.

In a policy that he put out in 1992, he talked about a greenhouse response commission—in 1992! I think that Al Gore was probably one of the few political leaders who were talking about greenhouse issues at that time. We

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had sceptics in this country about the whole greenhouse issue, and we probably still do. Until relatively recent times, in both major political parties there was not the acceptance of greenhouse issues that there is today. However, Phil was talking about a greenhouse response commission back then. Since the time I was a young bloke working on the 1992 election campaign, a photograph that has endured in my mind is that of Phil Pental and Beth Schultz sitting on a log in a wooded area, with the headline that conservationists endorse Liberal policies. That was one of the defining moments of that campaign, and Phil can be very proud of the work he did in that regard.

I will move on to talk about the past seven years, or probably a bit longer, when I got to know Phil not as a parliamentarian, not as a historian and not as a journalist, as many people knew him, but as a family man. I had the privilege to spend time with him and his family, and I got to know him as the godfather of one of his two sources of joy, Oscar Kenneth Pental Garswood. His grandson, Oscar, and his granddaughter, Mayr, became very much the focus of his life. As the godfather of Oscar, I got to spend lots of time with Phil, and I saw another wonderful side of Phillip Pental. He took into his role as a grandfather the passion that all of us would have seen in the other tasks that he did, and more. I have never seen anyone embrace the role of a grandfather as much as Phillip did. There were no half measures. He was a regular carer of his two grandchildren. Having seen Phil involved in the Parliament and in other areas, it was quite special to see him get down, be at one and communicate with young children. It is something that I will always remember. He would walk off with Oscar and take him to the railway crossing at Guildford, because Oscar, like a lot of little boys, loved trains and loved to watch the boom gates at the railway crossing go up and down. It was wonderful to watch those sorts of events and to hear the children share their stories about having visited their poppy at Toodyay and describe the latest addition to what was referred to as Phil's folly, which was effectively a shed that he rebuilt over time by hand, some of it with rocks. Every piece of that shed had a bit of Western Australian history about it. The doors were from somewhere and the windows were from a church somewhere else. That identified very much just who Phil was.

Phil had his sayings, and he was able to create sayings for his grandchildren also. I am not sure that I should tell this story, but I will because I cannot help it. At the funeral I was talking to Phil's grandson, who was describing his younger sister. I suspect they will hate it if this is ever repeated at their twenty-first birthday parties. Oscar referred to his younger sister as being a bit bossy. I asked him where he thought she got that from. He said that it was from the bossy voice store. Phil would often tell them that they got their bossy voices from stores.

Whenever Phil was with the kids, it was about providing inspiration for them. He had a commitment to lifelong learning, and when he was with his grandchildren, he was always ensuring that they were learning. They were not involved in sedentary activities. There was always an aspect of learning and growth for his grandchildren, as well as an element of creativity and an element of stimulation for them. That was always paramount in the activities that Phil undertook with his grandchildren. I have to say that Phil, like all grandparents, had an absolute capacity to spoil his grandchildren rotten. I suspect that they will miss being spoilt by Phil very much. Phil and I spent some time looking after the grandchildren on Rottnest Island one day, and I think we spent the day competing to see who could buy the most ice-creams and provide other activities for those children. Phil had a great commitment to history, and with his grandchildren, as with a lot of other things in his life, he ensured that their memories were recorded in a journal. I think that journal is referred to as "The Marvellous Adventures of Poppy, Nonny, Oscar and Mayr". Hopefully his grandchildren will be able to use that journal to remind them of the wonderful times that they had with their poppy. I have to say also that whenever I ran into Phil in Parliament, it was not the state of the nation that we discussed first, and it was not the latest political scandal; it was always his grandchildren.

I want to place on record my sincere condolences to the Pental family, and their friends. For me to know the Pental family was also to know the Horner family, because they are a very close-knit group. I know that John, Sue, Annie and Louise Horner will also be missing Phil dearly, and I extend to them my most sincere sympathies.

I turn now to Phil's wife, Maxine. I guess "wife" does not accurately describe the relationship that Phil had with Maxine. She was a fantastic foil, protector and sounding board. She was also his strongest supporter. Many of the accolades that have been given to Phil over the past week since his unfortunate passing must go also to Maxine, because I know, having watched the family closely, that Phil could not have achieved the things that he achieved without Maxine's fantastic support, assistance and guidance. I cannot imagine the loss that she must be feeling at the moment, and my greatest sympathies go out to her.

I want to express my condolences also to Phil's daughter Sasha and her partner, Russell. Sasha has become a good friend of mine. Again, as was the case with Phil, we do not necessarily share the same political views, but she is a wonderful person. To Simon and Beck, again lovely people, and also to my dear friends Narisha and

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Luke, I offer my sincere condolences. I hope that we will all continue to remember the many great things that Phil did in his life, and that will give them, and us, some comfort.

Finally, to Phil's grandchildren, Oscar and Mayr, I offer my sincere condolences. I hope that we can help them to keep alive their memories of their wonderful poppy. Although Phil was taken from them so early, in the short time that he had with them I am sure he gave them much more than many grandchildren could ever hope to get from a grandfather. I am very sorry that they will not be able to continue to share their lives with him.

Phil's passing is a sad loss for not only the Pental family, but also the people of Western Australia. I hope that every time we see a black swan on the Swan River, we will remember the contribution that Phil Pental made to this state.

**HON BARBARA SCOTT (South Metropolitan)** [10.43 am]: Like other members of this chamber, I want to pay tribute to Hon Phillip Pental. Much has been said about Phil's parliamentary career. I want to take a few moments to reflect upon my personal interaction with Phillip and Maxine. I first met Phillip and Maxine many years ago through some mutual friends, Mr Peter Sharkey and Dr Christine Sharkey, who had been friends of Phillip and Maxine in Bunbury. I happened to meet Maxine in South Perth at the very first book club that I joined. I then became friendly with Phillip through my involvement with the Liberal Party. As has been mentioned already, he had a marvellous ability as a wordsmith due to his previous journalism career and working with Sir Charles Court and others. Phillip always had the most wonderful turn of phrase, but he also had the great ability, as others have mentioned this morning, to capture a vision for policy making probably well beyond his time. When I was endorsed as the Liberal candidate for the South Metropolitan Region—Hon Clive Griffiths was number one, Phillip Pental was number two and I was number three—Phillip very kindly took me under his wing. He was very experienced, having developed some of the policies of the Liberal Party. I worked with him on two or three of those policy committees that he, as shadow minister, chaired, and he made sure we were all very involved in the preparation of those policies.

I remember, after I had first put my hand up for the South Metropolitan Region, getting a phone call from Phillip one evening and him saying, "Hey, Barb, I believe you're the person who's put her hand up for the South Metropolitan Region and that you don't want your name in the press. Don't hide your light under a bushel." I said, "Okay, Phil." He said, "No; we're going to win the next election and we're going to be in government; we've got a lot of work to do and I want you there beside me." They were very encouraging words from Phillip. At the time I was not at all familiar with Parliament, and during the dinner break he had rung with those encouraging words.

We then embarked on a campaign that was most interesting for me because, as has already been said, he had developed a very visionary environmental policy. Phillip took me on tours of the wetlands of the South Metropolitan Region and taught me about migratory birds that would come in to land. He also established, in South Perth, a group of children who would ensure that when these migratory birds came from the wetlands to a point in South Perth, the children of the South Perth schools nurtured those places. He was really very committed to his environmental portfolio and would have made a marvellous Minister for the Environment.

As many members in Parliament would have found, Phillip was one of those experienced members of Parliament who loved Parliament House as much as the opportunity to be a member and represent his area. He seemed to know all the nuances of Parliament House, which he shared with me and, I know, many, many other people. To this day, when I bring people into this chamber or take them into the members' dining room, I ask them, "Would you like to learn some of the nuances of this Parliament?" I say to them, "First of all, look at the ceiling in the dining room. You will notice that it is only two parts timber; the other part is different because the dining room was once narrower and it has been moved out." These are just some of the little things that Phillip Pental shared with me, other than showing me around Parliament and helping me with just the everyday activities that happen in this place.

He was a great mentor, friend and colleague, and when he made the decision to stand for the seat of South Perth it meant that the Liberal Party then had a decision to make about whether it would call a new preselection or move Barbara Scott up the ticket, and they moved me up the ticket. Phillip was very, very supportive in all of that activity and was a great help to me, so we came in as colleagues; he as the member for South Perth, and I as the member covering that region. He involved me in things in South Perth and the wider electorate and was always most helpful. If any new member of Parliament is as fortunate as I was in having a mentor who looked after me—who looked after me as a friend and who was genuine in his assistance—that member will be very fortunate indeed.

As things progressed in Parliament and we faced some difficult legislation on social issues, in particular the abortion debate that was led from this house from a private member's bill by a Labor member, there was much angst in the Parliament from a number of people who crossed political boundaries. I guess one could say that

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there were diverse interests politically within the Liberal and the Labor Parties. People from both sides of those major parties came together under Phillip as the unofficial convenor of this very diverse group. We would come together and discuss the legislation and the amendments. Phillip and others were able to call in extremely talented legal advisers, and we would sometimes work through the night until two or three o'clock in the morning. When I reflect on that, it was Phillip's leadership that drew those people together and attracted that support from the community because people believed that what Phillip was doing was right. People like Greg Craven, who was the Dean of Law at the University of Notre Dame, Terry O'Connor, QC, and others came in to assist us when we needed help in not only that debate but also other debates that have been mentioned in eulogies and write-ups about Phillip.

When Phillip retired, one of the greatest acknowledgements that he received was a papal award from the Pope. Other members have mentioned this, but I want to put it on record that Phillip was one of two retired members of Parliament, both Catholic politicians, to be honoured in this way. The other person was Bill McNee. These awards are called the "Papal Honour of the Cross for the Church and the Pontiff", and are one of the highest awards given by the Catholic Church. The awards were given by Pope John Paul II just before he died; in fact, they were awarded by the Archbishop of Perth, Archbishop Hickey, to Phillip and Bill on the day of Pope John Paul II's funeral, which was coincidental. A number of us in this chamber, me included, were fortunate to be at that ceremony when Archbishop Hickey made that presentation. A citation of that ceremony reported —

The awards were made to the Hon Phillip Pendal, formerly Independent MLA for South Perth, and Mr Bill McNee, formerly Liberal MLA for Moore, in recognition of their fidelity to Catholic principles and values in the world of politics, and particularly their commitment to the Gospel of Life during long debates in Parliament and the community on life issues such as abortion, the destruction of living human embryos for medical research, medical care of the dying and related issues.

. . .

"John Paul II fearlessly promoted Christian principles in all aspects of international politics and human life around the world, and his recognition of two West Australian Members of Parliament is his assurance that it is important for each of us to do the same in our own role in life," . . .

That was part of the citation, and I know that Phillip was extremely proud of that recognition, probably the highest recognition that one could get in the Catholic Church, and I am sure that his family are equally proud.

On a more humble level, Phillip was always willing to speak with people. His door was always open for anyone who wanted to discuss anything—parliamentary, personal, policy, whatever. Phillip held no grudges and put up no barriers to anybody who would seek his wise counsel. The City of South Perth, of course, made him an honorary freeman of the city and he was extremely proud indeed of that, as he was of everything in South Perth. I had involvement with him in the May Gibbs Trust. He invited me to be part of that, as I had a keen interest in the history of May Gibbs and children. That trust is still going, but the main work of the trust was indeed Phillip's initiative to bring back to South Perth a collection of paintings by May Gibbs and her father. The May Gibbs Trust undertook to raise funds to restore those paintings to a proper state, and they have now been gifted to the people of South Perth by the City of South Perth as a permanent collection of May Gibbs' paintings. Again, that is indicative of Phil's determination to make sure that the history of the small City of South Perth was recognised and considered as an important part of this state and of this nation for future generations. It is, therefore, something on which I had personal contact with Phil over the years. Whenever we met, he would say, "Well, whose turn is it to bring the red, Barb? Make sure it's a good one because the meeting will be short." So we got the business over with and then we would enjoy a red wine.

Phillip's turn of phrase was something that I think every member of this Parliament would envy; it was wonderful. I remember when the gym was built in this place and many members of Parliament were postulating about how fit they were going to become and how it was going to be absolutely wonderful. Phillip's words to me over a glass of red wine were, "Barb, all this gym and exercise are okay, but my theory is that if you are fit you don't need it, and if you are well, you shouldn't do it."

With those words, I would just like to put on record my sincere condolences to Maxine and the family. I am sure that the words that have been said about Phillip and the memories that they have of him will be shared for many, many years and will be a comfort to them at this sad time.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [10.58 am]: Mr President, four people have served in this place as Liberal members for the South Metropolitan Region; namely, Hon Clive Griffiths, Hon Phillip Pendal, Hon Barbara Scott and me. I have known Phillip Pendal since I joined the Liberal Party in 1985, and that is a very long time. I would like to associate myself closely with the observations and recollections of other members about Phillip's good standing, particularly in the City of South Perth, about his dedication to his many causes and issues and about his love for history and for the written record. That is something that I would like to have



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worked more closely with Phillip on if I had had the opportunity, but my time as a member in this place did not coincide with his. My contact with Phillip, although frequent, never developed the working relationship that it might have developed, and I consider myself the poorer for that.

I have an interest in maritime history, and I was intrigued to hear about the “old wrecks committee” when I first researched it over 10 years ago. I was glad to be reminded of it by the Leader of the House because it is something that I feel I had in common with Phillip. It is at times such as these that people inevitably look for those things that draw them together. I had contact with Phillip over 23 years or so, and that is a long time. We had frequent contact, although perhaps not in-depth contact, over that period. I enjoyed his company, his turn of phrase and the discussions that we shared. I do not think I ever had a cross word or disagreement with Phillip Pandal. Given the nature of party politics, that is saying something.

Over the years, I had the pleasure many times of meeting Phillip’s life partner and wife, Maxine. I know that it would be very remiss of me and I would regret it if I failed to place on the record my sincere condolences, and those of my wife, to Maxine and her children and extended family. I feel greatly privileged to have had the opportunity to place those condolences and sympathies on the public record. I heartily associate myself with the sentiments contained in the motion and, indeed, the observations that have been placed on the record by fellow members.

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Nick Griffiths):** I thank members who have spoken. The late Hon Phillip George Pandal was a very effective parliamentarian and a man of great principle. I first came across him in 1992 when he was the shadow Minister for the Environment and for Heritage. He was very effective in both roles, and members noted that in their observations this morning. I got to know him when he became a member of the Legislative Assembly. In his performance as a member of the Legislative Assembly, he approached his duty with great courage. He was not concerned about populism, although he came from the media; he did not follow so-called fashionable views. His stance on issues was based on what his conscience told him was right. He was a very devout man. He was a great leader. He will be very sorely missed. I extend my condolences to Maxine and to Phillip’s family. I invite members to stand to pay tribute to Hon Phillip George Pandal.

Question passed, members standing.