

JOSCELYN BOWEY — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [12.57 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Joscelyn Bowey, life member of the Nationals WA. Joscelyn recently passed away, after having lived a rich and giving life for all of her 93 years. The member for Roe and I travelled to Kulin last Monday to pay our respects, along with many from the communities she served. She was the dearly loved wife of Jim, now deceased; mum to Bill, now deceased, and Josette, Nola, Julie and Alan; and a very special gran to 15 grandchildren and great-gran to 36 children. Joscelyn was born in Albany, and after a short time in Kukerin and Katanning, returned there to see out her school years. It was in Albany that she met Jim, her soon-to-be husband. Once married, Joscelyn returned with Jim to the family farm in Kulin and, in addition to being a supportive wife, working on the farm and raising a family, commenced making a difference to this small but close-knit community. Joscelyn will be remembered as an all-round community champion. She was the first president of the infant health centre in Kulin and was secretary of the parents and citizens association for many years. She saw her family enjoy playing hockey and made her contribution as a patron of the Kulin hockey club. She held many positions in the Country Women's Association and on the Kulin arts committee, and was a member of the retirement homes and Central Agcare committees.

One of Joscelyn's biggest achievements was to rally support from the community and government to establish the junior high school in Kulin. She left her legacy and was an integral part of the Nationals WA family, conducting membership drives and attending state council meetings, and was duly commemorated for her contribution by being awarded life membership of the party in 1995. For me personally, I remember Joscelyn as a supportive and highly respected member of the WA National Party. I have a framed letter sent to me by Joscelyn from early in my parliamentary career. It was after a contentious debate when I was at odds with the Minister for Police over measures I found unacceptable and could not support. To receive a handwritten note from someone like Jos gave me enormous confidence that our members are compassionate and pragmatic. That letter hangs in my office as a daily reminder to do the right thing, even when it is the hardest path to take. We thank you, Joscelyn, and may you rest in peace. Thank you for your indulgence.