

ROBERT WHALLEY — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [12.52 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Robert Whalley, who passed away on 5 May 2021 at the age of 76 years. Bob was born on 20 October 1944 in Wiluna and grew up in Hopetoun and later Albany. He was an active community member, a keen footy player, and a long-time supporter and friend of the Nationals WA. Bob always had a burning ambition to play football and was a decorated player. He made his West Australian Football League debut in round one of the 1963 season playing for the East Perth Royals. He went on to play 67 games from 1963 to 1969, before returning to regional Western Australia to take over the Hopetoun Hotel and lace up his boots for the Ravensthorpe Southerners.

In the 1970s, Bob moved to Albany, where he became a fixture of the Railways Football Club going on to have a more than 40-year involvement as a player, coach, committee member, vice-president and life member. Bob was also known in Albany as a successful small business owner, purchasing a service station that became United Petroleum, now known as Whalley's United and Uberwash, and now owned by his son Robby. Bob's contribution to Albany, the city he loved, was considerable. He was a shareholder of the *Great Southern Weekender*, and he helped establish regional Western Australia's first state basketball team, the Rainbow Coast Raiders.

I offer my sincere condolences to Bob's partner of 29 years, Lorraine, his children, Robby and Cindy, and his family and friends. He was a wonderful person, who offered his support and encouragement to many, and he will be missed. Rest in peace, Bob.