

SWAN VALLEY

Statement

HON LORNA HARPER (East Metropolitan) [8.45 pm]: I rise this evening to talk about an event that I attended a few weeks ago on behalf of the member for West Swan, Minister Rita Saffioti. We met earlier in the day to talk about it. We were at the Ellenbrook Youth Centre, which we spoke about before, to help with random acts of kindness. We were helping the children make cookies that were to be handed out for R U OK? Day the following week. The minister was hands-on, icing the cookies with the words “R U OK?”. I did not bother, because my writing is not as good as hers.

We were discussing the event that I was going to attend, the Swan Valley and Regional Winemakers Association’s gala awards. I had to admit to the minister at that point that I actually do not drink wine. I also had to admit that when I went to the awards and delivered the minister’s speech! I think that was quite shocking to a room full of winemakers, but I then informed them that since I brought my husband, who does enjoy wine, we were measured out and I was driving. The one thing I have to say about our wonderful eastern suburbs is that the Swan Valley wine region boasts Western Australia’s oldest vines. Sorry, Margaret River region, but since the planting of those vines in 1829, the Swan Valley has been under vine ever since.

The Swan Valley is a natural food bowl. It is only 25 minutes from Perth city and has always been home to growers and producers. There are market gardens, breweries and distilleries, and chocolate, cheese and coffee makers—you name it, it is all out there. I encourage everybody to go out to the Swan Valley to visit these areas. Although I am not a wine drinker, I appreciate that a lot of people in the chamber enjoy a good glass of wine. I encourage them to visit some of those wineries.

If they like sparkling wine, members can always visit Mandoon Estate, the winner of the best sparkling wine. If dry white wine is their tippie of choice, they can go to Stringybark Winery and try its 2023 verdelho. How about a little rosé from Mandoon again? Sittella Winery won best red wine blend for its less than 75 per cent shiraz. Upper Reach Winery won for its 2022 “The Gig” grenache. Sittella also won for another dry white blend. John Kosovich Wines won for its 2019 chenin blanc, which I had drunk years ago and was served at dinner. I just named a few of the vineyards out there, but we cannot forget Sandalford Wines, Oakover Wines and Riverbank Estate Winery.

We have so many vineyards in the Swan Valley. I know there are buses going through, but if members really want to go, I do not mind driving them from vineyard to vineyard, as long as they publish it and tell everyone what a wonderful area it is, and what a special part of Perth it is. Thank you.