

BILL BALDOCK

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.56 pm]: Yesterday I attended the funeral of Bill Baldock. As has been reported in the newspaper, he was a volunteer firefighter who lost his life near Bridgetown in the past couple of weeks. Bill is survived by his wife Heather and four children. He was an outstanding contributor to the Bridgetown community, both in the sporting field and as a community member. He fought a number of fires with the Sunnyside Bush Fire Brigade and was well regarded by people throughout the south west. The fact that there were 1 200 people at his funeral yesterday bears testimony to the regard in which he was held by people throughout the south west of Western Australia. The State owes a debt of gratitude to people like Bill Baldock for their tremendous contribution. He was a great family man and a great community contributor. He will be sadly missed by all the people who knew him.

It was indeed a very sad occasion for the people of Yornup and Bridgetown who came out in great numbers yesterday to pay their respects to young Billie. He played football for the Bridgetown Football Club. He played tennis and was president of the golf club. He took his family fishing and did all the things that good family men do. The sad thing is that we have lost not only a well-respected husband and father to Heather and the kids, but also a person who will leave a big hole in the community of Bridgetown for many years to come.