

SUZANNE KELLY AND ANGUS WALLAM, *CORROBOREE*

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.54 pm]: I acknowledge the great achievement of Suzanne Kelly and Angus Wallam in presenting their illustrated version of *Corroboree*, a book for children that has been circulated throughout Australia. In 1999, Angus Wallam was the joint winner of the inaugural Marrwaring Award for published and unpublished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers. The award is an initiative of the University of Western Australia Centre for Indigenous History and the Arts and UWA Press.

Last week, I attended the launch of the book by Sally Morgan at Bull Creek Primary School, which was well attended by a range of school kids. Suzanne Kelly is a Nyoongah woman whom I have known all my life and who grew up in Pemberton. She now resides at Middlesex with her husband Alan, who was a saw doctor. Sue and Alan now grow apples. Suzanne is an excellent example of a person who understands the Aboriginal culture. During the launch of the book she said it was more about Aboriginal understanding than reconciliation - a salient point that she repeated yesterday on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Of course, Angus Wallam is a well-known Wagin identity. The book is about Wirrin, a young boy at about the same time that Angus was a young boy. It provides illustrations and translations of Aboriginal words into Australian words, and it will be a great addition to education in Australia.