

KYRA YUILL

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12.27 pm]: It gives me great pleasure as shadow Minister for Racing and Gaming to bring to the notice of the house a young female jockey from Dardanup. Kyra Yuill made racing history earlier this year when she rode the Perth Cup winner, Western Jewel. She was the first female jockey to do so in the 125-year history of the race. This was a great achievement for a rider, but even more so for an apprentice. Kyra has become only the third apprentice to win the event. Kyra has gone on to win a double at the recent 2012 Bunbury Turf Club awards. She easily won the WA Bookmakers Association apprentice of the year award, nine points clear of her nearest rival. She also won the Bunbury Turf Club award for rider of the year, beating riders who were older and more experienced than her. This was a culmination of a fine season for Kyra in the third year of her apprenticeship. The Western Australian Jockeys Association said she has shown great grace and dignity throughout her apprenticeship, describing her as one of WA's role models for all apprentice jockeys. The association highlighted her diligence and application towards her apprenticeship, making the most of her opportunities at a time when others are easily distracted by social activities.

Kyra is the daughter of trainer Graham Yuill and grew up with horses. She had concentrated on show jumping until the speed of racing attracted her. Kyra has impressed all those in the racing fraternity with whom she has come into contact with her great attitude and hard work. They say she is the first to arrive at the track and the last to leave. On the morning of the Perth Cup she was up at 4.00 am to ride track work on 15 horses. She is headed for a great future in the racing industry. I congratulate her and wish her all the best in the future.