

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

**ADDRESS BY
THE HONOURABLE KIM BEAZLEY AC
GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Tuesday, 1st May 2018

Can I start by acknowledging the Noongar people on whose ancestral lands we meet.

Particular thanks to Prof. Colleen Hayward of the Noongar Boodja people for her Welcome to Country. We are privileged to share this land with the oldest continuous civilisation on earth. Their happiness and dignity should be at the forefront of our thinking.

I must also thank Her Majesty for the honour she has done me in appointing me. Thank you to the Premier for nominating me. I also thank him and the Opposition Leader for their kind words. Through them I acknowledge the many ministers and parliamentarians, State and Federal who are here. I once shared their lives. I have the profoundest respect for the way they exercise responsibility for advancing this state and nation; tending to the needs, future and security of our precious people. Democracy is challenged globally and we must work to sustain the confidence of our people in the democratic process. We must be proud advocates for the popular will globally.

I acknowledge too the Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor Wayne Martin and through him the judicial presence here. Along with the members of the police force here, in their hands lies the maintenance of our system of law and justice. Theirs is a task for the confidence of our people.

The love of my life Susie has worked with me through the meandering roads of my public life. Her tolerance is extreme. Those roads are lit by my dear daughters Jessica, Hannah and Rachel of whom I am very proud. As I am of Jessica's and Hannah's families with my sons in law Phil and Andrew. And my five grandsons Tom, Jacob, Liam, David and Benji. My sister Merrilyn and her husband Rob are represented here by their son Anton and his wife Sarah and their children Aurelia and Eugenie.

Not present with us is my late father and mother Kim and Betty. I suspect they would be amazed but supportive. Their table introduced their children to this state and the world. We could not get enough of their views and experiences. I remember my father complaining from time to time about our interrogations but he always succumbed. Passing through were their many indigenous, immigrant, sporting, military, educational, political friends. It was a Christian table but it taught the value in all religions and I am grateful for the broad religious guests here tonight. Mum and Dad were the least judgemental of people, both of us and the broader community. They provided a secure environment. They were deeply impressed by my in laws,

the Annuses, the late Peter and Gizella represented here by Susie's brother Tibor, wife Linda and their children Julian, Yvette, Monica and Adrian.

While on the subject of family, I want to recognise my former boss, friend and mentor, Bob Hawke. He is a great Australian and we in the west can claim his formative years. Apart from a deep friendship Bob exemplified leadership in executive government. I came to understand through him, and the positions he appointed me to, how this system works. This will be very useful.

This is a great state but the road has often been hard. My parents were brought up in hard circumstances. Dad in a poor family. My mother a ward of legacy. She brought home to me, the sacrifices of W.A. in war. Western Australians had hard wars. For us and for most in the West then, there were deaths on both sides of the family. I have always respected and been grateful for those who lay their lives in the service of our nation. I am glad there are representatives of them with us. They include members of cabinet. W.A. is a critical state for the defence of our nation. The leadership of the armed forces here tonight represent many of our best.

War and remembrance brings to mind Kerry Stokes who is now Chairman of the Council of Australia's unsurpassed War Memorial. That hat is added to an extraordinary record in media ownership, minerals, construction, and as a collector and patron of art. He is here with his wife Christine.

The hardness in the history of our state brought branches of my family here. On Dad's side his direct ancestor came out as a convict in the 1850s at the age of 17. He had a choice – break rocks in the Round House or set up a carpentry business in Northam. He went to Northam. My mother's direct ancestor came out before the convicts who came later to help lift a state struggling with poverty. He was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. It was the 1830s so he decided to try his luck here. Lucky for me on both fronts.

I acknowledge here my superb predecessors Gov. Sanderson, Gov. McCusker and his wife Tonya, and Gov. Michael we remember tonight Ken's late wife Julie who was such a fine helpmate to her husband - proud Western Australians all. When the Premier made my announcement I said if I did the job half as well as Kerry Sanderson, I would do it well. The first Governor I met was not an Australian. He was Sir Charles Gairdner. He was a beloved Governor for 12 years. He was everywhere. Some years later in Trades Hall, long serving Union Secretaries would tell me of his making frequent visits to the Hall wandering from room to room to pass the time of day. I am glad to see some of their successors here tonight who do good work on the conditions of working West Australians.

We are a very different state from the State of my childhood. Then I was part of the majority. 65% of our population was born here. That figure is now well short of 50. We have many challenges but we have risen to prosperity, this city having quadrupled in size since the time of

my teen years. We make a major contribution to this nation. I remember before I took up Ambassadorship to the U.S. being given statistics that pointed to a nine to one balance against us on the domestic account. So heavy that trains went back East in ballast. So much so that steel fabrication done in my electorate was constructing the uranium mines at Roxby Downs in South Australia, competitive on transport costs with materials produced in Adelaide only a few hundred kilometres away. But on our external account our mining, energy and agricultural exports showed a nine to one balance in our favour. W.A. companies were three times as likely to be engaged in economic activity in Asia as their counterparts in the East. Our exports are fundamental to the nation's export performance.

Our recent prosperity has been driven by those industries and our entrepreneurial class. They are well represented here by members of our industry chambers and direct leadership of some of our companies. Also our entrepreneurs. Confidence that these industries would succeed for us caused Premier Sir Charles Court to take us off the list of claimant states in the division of federal allocations. That division is a matter of interest to us now.

We are a clever people with major achievements in medicine, biosciences, radio astronomy and energy related technologies. Likewise in information technology. We lead globally in minerals and energy symbolised by the regular African mining conferences that are held here. We also lead in software for the world's mining industry. We need advocates for our capacities in these and many other areas including defence industry and service industries such as education, media and tourism. I think here of a Curtin student as an example, Radheya Jegatheva. His animated short film, i Rony, dealing with the problems of social media, has won 74 awards and has been selected for 168 film festivals. I am grateful the Premier has suggested to me, I should perform an advocacy role for the State's capabilities. A daunting but critical challenge.

We have much to offer. I am grateful for the education I have received here at Claremont Primary School, Hollywood Senior High School, UWA and the chance to teach at Murdoch. Teachers construct our lives. To have a great teacher is a blessing. I have had many. I am grateful too for the time I have spent at the Perth USAsia Centre under the direction of Prof. Gordon Flake also here with his wife, Pakayvanh. The Centre is a great asset for WA advocacy with a superb outreach to the region around us.

I am lucky in all my friends many of whom are here. I can't acknowledge them all by name but there are many here from the East and overseas. From overseas is long-time friends Brian and Sandy Stoddart from NZ. Brian was a graduate student when I majored in South Asian history at UWA. From the East comes my dear friend and former Chief of Staff Michael Costello. Our former Chief Scientist Ian Chubb. My biographer Peter Fitzsimmons. My boss at Lockheed and former Navy Chief here Vince Di Pietro and his wife Sandy.

Defence attaché when I was in D.C. Gen. Tim McCowan and his wife Dom. My former political colleagues, Tanya Plibersek, Jenny Macklin, Jim Chalmers, Steve Conroy, Steve

Loosely, Gary Gray, Robert Hill. From the D.C. Embassy, my former Deputy David Stuart and his wife Anna, Kevin and Karen Cullen, Tim Roberts, Isaac Levido, Andrew Garrett, Jesse Suskin, John Angley. If I start going through all my staff we would be here all night but I look forward to the reunion opportunity that will be possible downstairs shortly. I owe them enormously for years of hard, loyal, diligent and patient work.

You are all distinguished guests. I am flattered by your presence and the many things you have done to enrich my life. I look forward to the challenge.