
SPORT AND CULTURE

Theresa Gambaro MP on the 2015 NRL grand final

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

One is that it was the first time both teams were captained by an Indigenous person. As the member for Herbert will attest, the Cowboys win was not just a win for the team but was a win for the entire North Queensland region. And what a win it was! I also want to congratulate my home team, the Broncos. They were gallant in defeat. To coach Wayne Bennett, captain Justin Hodges and all the players: well done on a fantastic effort! You did us proud.

Richard Marles MP, 2008

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I rise to speak of a matter which tonight and this week has been occupying much of the thoughts of those in my electorate—namely, the AFL grand final this Saturday. The significance of the Cats and footy to our community cannot be overestimated. It really matters. In

my childhood, following Geelong principally taught me about defeat.

Joanne Ryan MP 2014

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

There is much excitement about a rugby league match happening tonight, but the real state-on-state action will happen in Melbourne on Sunday. Melbourne Vixens, led by the great Bianca Chatfield, will face off against Queensland Firebirds, led by Laura Geitz, in the ANZ Championship netball grand final.

Roger Price MP, 2003

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I want to talk about a certain event that occurred on Sunday evening at Telstra Stadium, but I almost feel as though I need to make a personal explanation to say that I am a dyed-in-the-wool Parramatta supporter and always have been. But my electorate is in the Penrith Panthers draw area and I have to say that the majority of my electorate are wildly enthusiastic Panthers supporters. I like to think of the Panthers as my No. 2 team.

Peter Nugent, 1999

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I am delighted to bring to the attention of the House the fact that the best team won on Saturday. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of the North Melbourne Kangaroos in winning the grand final on Saturday, which I had the pleasure to attend. We were undoubtedly the best team. Carlton were not even in the game. We have demonstrated that the Kangaroos have been the best team in the AFL throughout the 1990s.

I am delighted to see that the Prime Minister has joined us, because I also have to remind the Prime Minister—with the greatest respect of course—that the Melbourne Storm won the rugby league grand final on Sunday. It was, I am sure, a great game. The Melbourne Storm are an outstanding team. In only their second year in the rugby league competition they have won the grand final. It just shows that Melbourne is the supreme city in this country for sport.

Ewen Jones MP, 2012

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I rise in this chamber in the most important week we will see here in a long time. It is the week where we will see the first of three State of Origin games, which will surely result in Queensland winning the Harvey Norman trophy for a record seventh time in a row.

Kevin Rudd, 2009

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I am sure all reasonable members would join with me in saying, ‘Go the Maroons!’ Swanny and I are backing Queensland and people like Burky, Albo, Robert, Joel, Peter, Chris and Tanya are simply mistaken.

Graham Edwards MP, 2001

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

Mr Speaker, given Australia's magnificent win in the ashes series concluded in the very early hours of this morning Australian time, on behalf of the Australian parliament, will you write to the Australian cricket team congratulating them on their series win and for the tremendous spirit of fair play and

good sportsmanship in which they played the game?

Kirsten Livermore MP, 2005

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I am sure we all have stories from our families about our fathers or grandfathers sitting there wrapped up in a blankets on a cold winter's night in front of the old radiogram listening to the broadcasts of the Ashes tours of England in the fifties and sixties. In my family there is a story of my dad falling asleep on the floor listening to the test cricket coverage in the middle of the night. I suspect there are a number of members of this chamber who have similar memories of their introduction to Ashes cricket.

Deane Wells MP, 1983

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

The Premiers of Queensland and Tasmania, if such expensive and anachronistic sinecures are still held, will be of about as much interest to the twenty-first century as R2D2 to Darth Vader.

Senator Helen Polley, 2016

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

What we do know though from the past year is that it has really been a parliament equivalent to the Game of Thrones or the Lord of the Flies—you know, the story about the little boys who tried to govern themselves but failed.

Brendan O'Connor MP, 2002

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

The fact is that, as I said in my letter to them in June, despite Australia and England having played for the ashes for 120 years and despite Australia having won the last seven—now eight—Ashes series in a row, the actual trophy has never left Lord's. Even on the occasion of the Centenary Test in Melbourne in 1977 it was only seen fit to send a replica of the urn. This I believe is contrary to the spirit of the original gift made at Rupertswood, Sunbury, and is moreover contrary to the spirit of cricket itself. Even the New York Yacht Club, after its first defeat in the America's Cup, saw fit to unbolt the trophy in 1983 after 132 years and deliver it to the new

winner. There has been no respect shown to the Australian cricket team and the Australian public with respect to the Ashes.

Bill Shorten, 2016

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I have seen gloomier expressions, but I cannot think where. I was reminded of that series The Walking Dead. They look happier on that than they do in here.

Shayne Neumann MP, 2008

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

Remember Lord Voldemort? Lord Voldemort was talked about by everyone. Harry was the only person who was able to say his name. Everyone talked about 'the Prince of Darkness' and 'He Who Must Not Be Named'. Work Choices is the Lord Voldemort of Australian politics now.

Craig Emerson MP, 2002

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

The movie Attack of the Clones, in summary, was about a war that took place involving the clones. It was a war that was referred to by Obi-Wan Kenobi all those years

ago in the original Star Wars movie—Obi-Wan Kenobi told Luke Skywalker that he fought with Luke's father in the clone wars. We subsequently learn, in that first trilogy, that Luke Skywalker's father was Darth Vader. So it is fitting that we are debating this legislation today for all those fans of space activity.

I am also informed that there was no definition of outer space provided in the movie last night, so it is convenient that a definition of outer space be provided in this legislation here today. That definition is '100 kilometres from the earth'. I thought people would be interested that we do know what we are talking about when we are talking about space, whether it be in relation to Attack of the Clones or the Space Activities Amendment Bill 2002.

Senator Fiona Nash 2015

Source: [Parliament of Australia](#)

I welcome two forthcoming events this December. The first is on 18 December, when the fabled

Star Wars franchise obtains a reboot through new eyes, and, of course, a week later we get to spend time with our loved ones, relatives and in-laws at Christmas. Why Star Wars? There is an immense amount of optimism with respect to the arrival of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, underlining the impact the famed original trilogy has had, transforming the way we make, market and enjoy film.

The original cast are returning, the beloved Millennium Falcon has snuck into the previews, and early sales of tickets here in Australia point to unprecedented demand. According to Event Cinemas, in late October the Star Wars: The Force Awakens first-day presales in Australia totalled 30,000 in just four hours. To put that in perspective, that is four times as many as the first day of presales for The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn and Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 2 in the same period.

I can remember being amazed at seeing Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill light up the

screens in George Lucas's magnificent space opera in 1977. I do point out, Senator Smith, that I was 12, and I thought Mark Hamill was actually quite handy. C-3PO and R2-D2 started us on a journey that traversed hyperspace. The movie transcended a generation. I remember my two boys, Will and Henry, at a very young age being transfixed by their remote controlled Darth Vader.