

SPEECH BY GRAHAM BARNETT AT SYDNEY ROWING CLUB LUNCHEON

On behalf of all of us I wish to thank our organizers Adrian, Geoff, and John.

I mention them in that order firstly because it is alphabetical and secondly and most importantly because it follows the order of Mordecai's children from which they are descended.

We all thank them for their conception of the idea of a Bi-Centennial Reunion, their perseverance and determination in bringing it all together and making it happen.

For their amazing research their hard work time and long hours spent on working it all out and sorting out all the confusing material and navigating their way through all the conflicting evidence of Mordecai's life.

These past four days have far exceeded my expectations as I'm sure it has yours.

Let's make it an annual event.

It's good to know where we come from so we know where we are heading.

By discovering your roots you can grow and branch out.

Like branches on a tree we all grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.

REMAINING SPEECH BY GRAHAM BARNETT NOT GIVEN DUE TO NOISE LEVEL

There have been many comments made as to what Mordecai would have thought if he was here to witness all of this and see us all.

More significantly is what his father Myer would have thought not having had any children with his wife. Having an affair which produced a child he was ashamed of and just wanted to ship him off to the colonies. However Mordecai created descendants who flourished, became successful and made significant contributions to the Australian landscape.

Rabbi Elton summed it all up most succinctly in his Erev Shabbat Sermon that we all know ten rabbits went missing in England but when Mordecai arrived in Australia he rehabilitated himself, gave himself a second chance and seized the opportunity to be a successful member of Society.

In framing his whole sermon around our family, Rabbi Elton gave us a great honour and compliment.