



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate, Historical Societies

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise tonight to inform members about the various historical societies which exist in my electorate of Moggill. These societies perform a valuable community role by informing and maintaining awareness of how suburbs and the local area in general developed and, importantly, preserving records and artefacts from over the last 150 years or so. I believe, particularly in our young state and nation, that it is important to be conscious of our history as it provides context for today and for the future. It might surprise some to learn that little more than two lifetimes ago large areas of what is now urban sprawl was farmland or even untouched bush.

Three of these historical societies in my electorate are the Kenmore and District Historical Society, the Moggill Historical Society and the Brookfield Historical Society. These three societies seek out information on and keep documentary and photographic evidence of the history of their respective local areas. Much of this information is presented on their websites. I can only confess to being amazed at the sheer quantity and quality of information to be found on their respective electronic platforms. The material on the historical societies' websites lends an immediacy to the past and emphasises how recently Brisbane was a small rural community. On these websites I was struck by the large number of present day local streets whose names reflect those who farmed, worked and lived in the area.

Many people may well dismiss all of this as useless information about a bygone area. I conversely take the view that a breadth of knowledge and an appreciation of our heritage are important endeavours. In a world where everything has a price, where there is no such thing as a free lunch, I am delighted to report that all this comes at essentially no cost to the public purse. Volunteers work for their own satisfaction while paying membership fees to support their society.

Prior to my election I was aware of the existence of these societies, but not the extent of their dedication to what I see as very worthwhile objectives. Nor was I aware of the quality and quantity of material they make available to the general public at no cost. May I commend the work they do to this House and propose that as a matter of principle all members encourage, support and assist their own historical societies in any reasonable way possible.

I recently had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Kenmore District Historical Society. I congratulate president Judy Magub and secretary Penny Cook, as well as the other members of the committee for the work and research they undertake as part of the Moggill electorate community. Can I also say how much I enjoyed the recent Back to Pullenvale Day event at the Pullenvale Hall. Congratulations to president Julie Smith and her committee on such a successful day and for all the work she and others do for the community of Pullenvale with respect to local events.

In my remaining time can I also say how delighted I was to attend the 150-year anniversary celebrations of Moggill State School which was established in 1866. Happy birthday and well done to all, including school principal Darren Marsh, students of the school, parents and the P&C committee.