



Speech by

GEOFF WILSON

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard 28 April 1999

THE HILLS PLAYERS INC.

Mr WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): I rise to speak about The Hills Players, an amateur theatre group that has been providing excellent theatre entertainment to the residents of the suburbs of north-west Brisbane for the past 19 years. Recently I had the pleasure of attending the opening night of their latest production, a comedy called *Breath of Spring*, written by Peter Coke and ably directed by Sylvia Smith.

The play centres around Dame Beatrice Appleby and her friends, who have ideas beyond their means. When they have to arrange to return a stolen fur, they realise that their talents could be used to better effect. Under the command of the brigadier, Bee, her friend Alice and her two lodgers, Nan and Hattie, become quite accomplished fur thieves. Their activities soon lead to problems, not the least of which are overwrought nerves and a brush with the police. The action of the play passes in the living room of Dame Beatrice's flat overlooking the Albert Memorial. Their escapades delighted a very appreciative, virtually full house.

In this age of passive, electronic and celluloid entertainment—some of questionable quality—it is pleasing that a community-based and volunteer-driven amateur theatre group such as The Hills Players has continued to provide very affordable live entertainment to the public. It is staggering to think of the time, effort, work and dedication required by volunteers to put on such a production. For example, they have to make all their own props, set up the stage and dismantle it every night for the usual four nights of the production. I congratulate the director and each of the eight performers for a fine performance. I also congratulate the 10 backstage crew, two of whom were also in the cast.
