



Speech by

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BRISBANE WEST BY SOUTHWEST—AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.06 p.m.): I am very honoured and delighted to be invited to launch Ezzat Guindy's publication *Brisbane West by SouthWest—An Illustrated History* on Saturday. It was in August 1997 that I moved into the Centenary suburbs from Graceville. I felt that it was important to be a resident of the electorate where I served as a state member and the local representative. Over the years, I have come in contact with many community organisations and individuals. I felt a need to become involved in part of the community I lived in. I have grown very fond of this place and, thanks to Mr Guindy and Peter Lightfoot, I have recently discovered that there was a lot that I did not know about the history of the area.

History and background are vitally important in establishing one's roots. Children need to know about the area they are being brought up in. It provides them with a sense of self, stability, security and belonging. When they move on to bigger things in their lives, they are equipped with the knowledge that the place they were brought up in has a story to tell. They can draw from this history when dealing with matters in the future.

I was absolutely amazed and intrigued by the amount of information contained in this book. It made me even more proud of being a resident of the Centenary suburbs. Upon reading this publication, it is interesting to note that fern fossils 14 to 16 million years old were found in Riverhills, Mistral Street, Jamboree Heights, Centenary Highway, Sinnamon Park and Oxley. How is that for a bit of ancient history! I understand that my own home suburb, Jindalee, is an Aboriginal word meaning a bare hill, or no skin on the bone.

It seems that most of the streets and suburbs were named as such for a reason. For example, Sinnamon Park was named after the Sinnamon family. In 1880, the Sinnamon family and other pioneers of Seventeen Mile Rocks donated money to build a church that could provide religious services to about 60 people in the area. The intended church was supposed to be Church of England, but it was never provided with a Church of England minister.

I was astounded by what I did not know about this area. When Peter Lightfoot visited me recently, I made the most of this opportunity to pick his brains over certain issues. Why did all the streets in Jindalee begin with the letter C? Why did all the street names in Jamboree Heights all relate to scouting? I was actually talking to the man who was involved in naming those streets. What was the history of the old hospital site? I wish I had had all day with him to find out what he knew.

But there is no-one more passionate about these suburbs than Ezzat Guindy. Ezzat was not born in this country, but he likes to be referred to as a true-blue Australian. He has been collecting information for this book for many years. He put it all together. You read through the book and the pieces of the puzzle all come together. There is nothing more exciting than knowing where your digs are and where you come from.

Readers will find this book absolutely enlightening. It will feed their curiosity and heighten their senses. Thank you, Mr Guindy and Mr Lightfoot, for bringing this interesting story of the history of this area to us.

Time expired.
