



Speech by

**Mr P. PURCELL**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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Hansard 21 June 2001

**BUDGET DEBATE 2001**

**Mr PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (6.30 p.m.): It gives me pleasure to rise to speak in the debate on the appropriation bills. I congratulate the Treasurer, Terry Mackenroth, on his first Queensland budget. On behalf of the people of Bulimba, I thank the government for its ongoing commitment to the port of Brisbane motorway. Major roads in the Bulimba electorate include Wynnum Road, Creek Road and Lytton Road. All of these roads carry a tremendous number of large trucks and heavy vehicles day and night. Many of these vehicles are travelling to and from the port of Brisbane.

Once the motorway is completed, residents will directly benefit from this road. With many of those heavy vehicles using the port of Brisbane motorway instead of local roads, the noise and air pollution in our local suburbs will be dramatically reduced and our local roads will be safer for motorists and pedestrians. As Queenslanders we will all benefit from the boost to our export opportunities. There will also be employment opportunities during the construction stage of the new port road. The Bulimba oxbow at Murarrie will also benefit during construction, with work being done to rehabilitate it in conjunction with the Bulimba Creek catchment group.

I am extremely pleased to note that money has been allocated to purchase land for the construction of a new fire station. The existing fire station is antiquated and past its use-by date. Modern fire trucks cannot fit through the doorway and the working conditions for the firemen are atrocious. The building is heritage listed and nothing can be done to upgrade it. I also acknowledge the \$2.5 million allocated for the design, construction and development of the Murarrie industrial park. I trust that designers take into consideration the fact that this suburb is a combination of industry and residential and ensure that any new development needs to enhance and work in with the living environment of the residents.

Last but not least, I acknowledge the \$960,000 in total funding for the public housing capital works program in Bulimba, which is a proverbial drop in the bucket. This has come about because of the continual squeeze being placed on the state housing budget by the Howard federal government, which is no friend to my constituents in public housing or those awaiting placement in public housing. Many of the department's properties in the Bulimba electorate are aged and are badly in need of an upgrade. Similarly, I believe the department needs to purchase and construct a lot more stock in the Bulimba area in order to meet the ever-increasing waiting lists while the Howard government continues to take money away from the state housing portfolios and bleed them dry. One of the most basic needs of people for housing is being ignored by the present federal government.

For a change of pace I will get off the subject of the stingy Howard government and talk about something a bit more pleasant. In this the International Year of the Volunteer so many stories are coming to light of people who have dedicated their time and lives to assisting others. The role of the volunteer in our community is as varied as the volunteers themselves. The majority of volunteers are very modest people. It is sometimes difficult to find out all that they give to the community, because it is not in their nature to talk about what they do. One such person is Kevin Francis McNeill of Morningside. For many years Kevin has done voluntary work for both charities and lawn bowls. His history of voluntary work began in 1938. At 14 years of age Kevin became a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society. He

assisted with caring for the sick and elderly. Being a volunteer at such an early age obviously instilled in him a life of giving and caring for others.

In 1953 Kevin McNeill was involved with the seaman's refuge in Townsville. In 1959 he was one of the founders of the Commonwealth Public Service Credit Union. In 1978 he was associated with the Madonna House women's refuge in Brisbane. In his spare time, Kevin took up the game of lawn bowls. He became an accredited RQBA coach in 1977 and has spent over 200 hours coaching and supervising school pupils from Balmoral State High School. Kevin is also an accredited umpire at levels 1 and 2. He is the 1999 president and past president of the Gateway District Bowls Association. At 77 years of age, he is still actively involved with the Balmoral Heights Memorial Bowls Club as well as a regular volunteer at the Bulimba and Districts Meals on Wheels. Kevin has given a lifetime to helping others. On behalf of the community, I extend to Kevin a sincere thankyou.

As there are a number of other people I want to mention, I seek leave to have my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Another person I would like to pay my respects to is Beulah (Tibby) Anderson, a lovely lady.

Tibby has been associated with the Bulimba State School for approximately ten years. During this time she has contributed a great deal in a quite a range of areas. She is a quiet but relentless achiever. During her time as a cleaner at the Bulimba school, Tibby would go to great lengths to ensure that rooms were spotless even to the extent of returning after her normal working hours to maintain her standards. During this time Tibby also undertook the responsibility for much of the upbringing of her 3 grand-daughters. Sadly their mother, Tibby's daughter in law, had died of heart and lung disease, leaving Tibby to adopt the role of parent/caregiver. In this role she enthusiastically involved herself in many voluntary school activities. She is widely recognised by the Bulimba School community for her tireless efforts. Tibby's most significant achievement recently has been her implementation and monitoring for the past 2 years of the "Stop, Drop and Go" zones for which she won a Road Safety Award.

Although Tibby's grand daughters no longer attend the Bulimba School she continues her association with the Bulimba School to this day. Tibby is the fundraising coordinator and has initiated many ventures to raise money for the school. She has convened and worked on fetes, stalls, functions and fundraising drives. Tibby's infectious enthusiasm and organisation skills have been invaluable. Tibby has organised parents and provided catering for school functions and the running of special food days to raise the funding for the School's Peer Support Program. As a parent representative, Tibby has supported the various classroom teachers, organised rosters, accompanied excursions and helped in the classroom in a variety of ways including sewing, reading and cooking.

Tibby is a prolific volunteer in the school tuckshop and is the current President of the Tuckshop Committee. She is responsible for the printing and distribution of the school newsletter and helps the school band at concerts and rehearsals. Tibby's voluntary work has improved the community by raising much needed funds to purchase resources for the children attending the Bulimba State School. Her infectious enthusiasm has made Tibby readily recognisable by children, parents and staff of the Bulimba State School. Tibby serves as a role model to others for the energy and commitment she constantly displays. I know I can say this to you Tibby, thank you on behalf of the past, present and future children attending Bulimba School for a job well done.

We hope you can keep up the good work for many years to come.

I would now like to mention a husband and wife team—Bob and Lynne Brown. Bob and Lynne are more commonly known in the Cannon Hill area as Mr and Mrs Football. Bob is President of the Cannon Hill Stars Junior Football Club and Lynne is the Secretary. They have both held these positions for 10 years and have made the decision that this year will be their last. Bob played for the Cannon Hill Stars Junior Football Club as a young fellow of about 9 or 10 years of age. When he returned to Brisbane to live after several years in Sydney he decided to give something back to the club which gave him so much enjoyment as a youngster. Similarly after being a parent of players and a club supporter some years ago, Lynn decided she wanted to assist the club and volunteered to take on the job as Secretary. As well as being the President of the Club, Bob is a qualified junior referee and a Member of the Brisbane Junior Referees Club. Bob is also on the Board of Directors for the Junior League. For the past five (5) years, Bob has been the manager of the Brisbane Representative Side. He has managed the 13, 14 and 17 year old sides. This involves taking the representative side to a predetermined country town somewhere in Queensland and participating in local football carnivals. This year the team is off to Warwick on the 1st July. Naturally in order to do this, Bob has to take his holidays. Wednesday nights after work he goes down to the club to mark the fields for the weekend games. He also spends his evenings cleaning up the grounds before and after the games and on training nights to make sure that the playing grounds remain safe for the players. There are also meetings during the football season which they need to attend.

The work for Bob and Lynn doesn't just start and finish with the football season. Jerseys need to be ordered in November. December they begin preparing the promotional material. January the newsletters and recruitment drive starts before the sign on day in February. Coaches have to be interviewed. And all this before the season starts. All up Bob and Lynn would each spend some 25-30 hours every week devoted to junior football. This is a big ask for anyone to give up this amount of time and commitment to unpaid work, particularly after working a full day. Although it does have an up side. After all Bob did get to marry the Club Secretary. You are both going to be sadly missed at the Cannon Hill Stars Junior Football Club. I have no doubts that you will both remain the Club's strongest and most dedicated supporters. I thank you on behalf of everyone for all that you have given to junior rugby league. You both know how important it is that our children get the opportunity to play a team sport.

Before I leave the Cannon Hill football club behind, I wish to point that they have been very fortunate in having such great volunteers. Along with the Browns, the club was also fortunate in having the support and services of Norm Johnson. Sadly Norm passed away on the 1st May, 2001, but he has left us with a lasting legacy—his photographs. Norman Selwyn Johnson was born at Kuridalla, Queensland, on 9th October 1909. He was the tenth of thirteen surviving children. Norm was always very artistic and was gifted with a talent for painting and pottery. However it was in photography that he found his greatest expression. Norm combined his love of photograph with his passion for sports. In particular rugby league. So many of our sporting legends grew up in the Cannon Hill area and have been immortalised on film by Norm—a very young Wally Lewis, Bob Lindner and Paul Kahl are just a few of the famous faces in the hundreds of photographs on the walls of the Cannon Hill Stars Junior Football Club.

From the late 50s, early 60s Norm attended every home game and photographed the young players in action. Norm would then go home, develop his photos and give them to the youngsters and the club. Swimming stars such as Tracey Wickham, Lisa Curry-Kenny and Suzie Baumer were also photographed by Norm in their primary school days. Last year I had the great pleasure of presenting Norm with the Australian Sports Medal. It was one of the proudest moments of Norm's life to receive the official recognition and I know he treasured the medal. He always took the perfect picture and showed people in their best light. Norm always had a kind word and an encouraging gesture for young players. With the photographs Norm has left us with a legacy which is irreplaceable. His talent, kindness and generosity have ensured that he will be long remembered and respected by this and generations yet to come. Vale Norm. A highly distinguished effort and a grand life innings of 91 years celebrated.

Another married couple who have devoted their life to supporting and assisting their sport is Paddy and Carmel Heath. Paddy and Carmel are an institution as far as netball is concerned in the Cannon Hill area. At a time when most people are sitting back, enjoying their retirement and relaxing, Paddy and Carmel can be seen spending their days working hard to keep the netball courts in an immaculate condition. As the courts are directly across the road from my Electorate Office, I can personally testify to the long hours and hard work they put in.

Netball is the most popular sport in Queensland for girls and women and has thousands of participants. Paddy & Carmel have worked very hard over the years to raise funds so all those of girls and women who wished to participate in the sport are able to do so. Their courts at Cannon Hill are of the highest standard. One of their more recent acquisitions is the installation of the lighting to enable players to enjoy their games in the evenings. What you have both achieved for netball over the years is an absolutely credit to you. I extend my thanks for a job well done.

Another person who has earned the right to sit back and relax after a life time of hard work, but instead chooses to voluntarily dedicate his time to helping others, is my good mate Ernie Adsett. Many members here may remember Ernie from his days at the old Storeman & Packers Union. Ernie retired from the Union many years ago, but he hasn't lost any of that full-on enthusiasm he was well known for in his prime. Ernie is the President of the Colmslie sub Branch of the RSL and Assistant Treasurer of the Colmslie RSL. Ernie has dedicated his retirement years to looking after our returned servicemen and women and does an admirable job. Every year Ernie and I go around all the schools in the Bulimba Electorate prior to Anzac Day to impress upon the future generation the importance of Anzac Day. Ernie's enthusiasm and energy is boundless when it comes to helping RSL members and their families. Well done mate.

Laurie Latham, the Administer for the Balmoral Uniting Community Centre is another excellent example of people who have a lifetime of giving. From 1954—62, Laurie was the Secretary of the Morningside State School P & C Association. Although his children no longer attended the school, Laurie continued on as Secretary to see the completion of the swimming pool project. At the same time he was Vice President of the Balmoral High School Association.

In 1980 Laurie retired from the Queensland Government Printing Office. Rather than sit back and enjoy his retirement, he became a volunteer at the Balmoral Uniting Community Centre. In 1993 he was appointed Administrator of the Centre. In this position he still holds today. Although now in his 80s Laurie works in excess of 50 hours a week and receives a salary equivalent to 16 hours a week. He has given almost 50 years of voluntary service to the community. He is a true gentleman and the backbone of the

Community Centre. I know that the Brisbane Sailing Squadron has a large number of volunteers who freely give of their time to teach the club's new and younger members sailing skills.

The following people:

Chris Anderson, Jenny Anderson, Marine Gallagher, Dean Horton, Daniel Jack, Claire Kreis, Belinda Luscombe, Joanne Luscombe, Emily Mahoney, Sarah Newton, Heather O'Keefe, Bronwyn Seto, Vivien Seto, Grant Steinback are all to be congratulated for their commitment.

I am sure my fellow members are well aware of the huge time commitment so many people give to their local bowls club. In the Bulimba Electorate, I have five Lawn Bowls Club—Balmoral, Balmoral Heights, Camp Hill, Cannon Hill and Norman Park. Each Club has a Ladies and a Mens Club. Most of these clubs are struggling to keep their heads above water which places a greater emphasis on the role of volunteers to keep the clubs going.

**Mr PURCELL:** Every club has extremely dedicated people who work very hard for their individual clubs. I am hesitant to start naming names for the fear of missing someone, but I thank each and every one of them. Their work is very much appreciated. These people are only a very small percentage of the volunteers who work so tirelessly to ensure that life or leisure time is better for their friends, neighbours and the community as a whole. None of them do it to be thanked, nor do they seek any public recognition for what they give. I dread to think what life would be like without them and other like-minded people. These people give so unselfishly of themselves, their expertise and time to assist others. Whether it be in the area of sport, health, education or general quality of life, all of us have had our lives enriched because of their commitment and dedication.

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