



Speech by

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OXLEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.15 p.m.): On 26 July this year I was honoured to attend the 90th anniversary dinner of the Oxley United Football Club. Currently the club has four teams of senior men involving 60 registered players with a top team playing in BMS Premier 2 Division. There are three teams of senior women involving 50 registered players with the top team playing in BWS Division 1. Over 370 boys and girls from under 7 to under 17 play in 32 teams in the Brisbane Southern Districts Junior Association. That is a lot of red and white soccer players on the football fields at Dunlop Park in Corinda.

The club began its life during the midst of the Brisbane tramway strike of 1912 with social soccer matches to fill in time. The year after, a group of players joined the Brisbane Football Association and Oxley United came into being. At the beginning of the 1913 season Oxley's first president was dispatched to the big smoke to buy a football kit and, believe it or not, the only colour available was red and white—the same colour they continue to use today.

Between 1927 and 1930 Oxley won premierships in the first division, second division and third division. The next milestone occurred in 1946 when Oxley won promotion to the first division with a very young side. They were often confused with the other united, Manchester, and were nicknamed The Babes by the media before The Busby Babes became synonymous with that other United. After the Second World War, the club alternated between first and second divisions before consolidating in the first division in 1954. In 1959 they won the inaugural Ampol Cup, later named the Queensland Cup. The year before the Brisbane representative side consisted of nine players from Oxley out of the 11 on the team.

The Oxley United Football Club is the oldest football club still competing as it celebrates its 90th anniversary. Of course, like every club, Oxley United has had its difficult periods. However, the spirit of its members and players remained very strong throughout. They can look back on many great achievements, but most of all the people in the club will treasure the memories of the camaraderie and the sportsmanship which will drive the club on for another 90 years. This club has a lot to be proud of, and I wish them all the best for the future.