



Speech by

Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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THE AUSTRALIAN BOOK OF MEMORIES

Mr NEIL ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (11.40 a.m.): Jim McAuliffe left school at the age of 13 in the mid-1920s and started work for Fred Jones Menswear in Shield Street, Cairns. This was to start a relationship with the clothing industry lasting 70 years. Throughout his life Jim developed a passion for flying. For nearly four decades he flew in anything and with anyone he could. In May 2001 the Atherton Shire Council officially named the Atherton airport the Jim McAuliffe Field in his honour. Jim enjoyed life to the full and spent most of it laughing, joking and flying. He died on 15 October 2002, survived by his wife, sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mabel Hope Annie Rive, nee Beckman, spent her early years in Wynnum and Coorparoo. Hope wanted to be a teacher, but after the death of her father and her mother's subsequent remarriage she left school to become a tailor. Her skills as a tailor were put to good effect when she married Les Rive in 1941. Hope made the suit that Les wore on their wedding day. Hope died on 18 February 1974 at the relatively young age of 55. During her short stay on this earth she touched many hearts and enriched lives and is remembered by many with great love and affection.

These are wonderful memories of some very special people, but how do I know such matters about people and families I have never met? The answer lies in an inspiring new publication created by the National Trust of Queensland named *The Australian Book of Memories*. *The Australian Book of Memories* is both a hard copy and electronic record of the lives and achievements of Australians from all walks of life. It aims to provide all Australians with the opportunity to create and record permanent tributes to family members, special friends, work colleagues and team members who touched their lives.

The National Trust of Queensland has created the book to fill a void not met by any other historical record. It enables anyone or any organisation to create a permanent reminder of the lives of special and respected people. Tributes are to be printed in volumes using 500-year archival paper. The text and photographs are written and supplied by the family or organisation submitting the entry. It is therefore a story and an account of history from those who best know the person for whom the entry is made.

The National Trust of Queensland is a community organisation constituted under an act of the Queensland parliament. Its aim is to conserve Queensland's cultural, natural and built heritage. Their latest project offers, in their words—

The opportunity to leave an indelible reminder of the life of someone you have known; someone who perhaps gained neither fame nor infamy but nevertheless had a story to tell that is worth remembering; someone whose life was of importance to your family; someone you loved.

As an example of pages of the book, I table copies of the entries for Jim McAuliffe and Hope Rive, whom I mentioned earlier.

A single page in *The Australian Book of Memories* can be purchased for \$199. This is well within the reach of a group of family members or a community organisation and is a fitting way to commemorate the memory of someone who has made a significant impact on our lives. Copies of the bound volumes of *The Australian Book of Memories* will be held in the National Library of Australia, each state and territory library,

and the National Trust in each state and territory. Each page will also be published on *The Australian Book of Memories* web site at www.australianbookofmemories.com.

Income from the sales of pages in the book is to be shared between the National Trust of Queensland and those community groups who sign up as partners in its promotion. Importantly, the trust has secured the agreement of all states and territories that Queensland will be the host state for its compilation.

The Australian Book of Memories is a valuable contribution to the preservation of our history. Anyone for whom a story can be told is worthy of an entry in this magnificent book. People have different views about the recording of history and the role it plays in our lives. Cicero said—

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time, it illumines reality, vitalises memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.

Henry Ford had a different view. He said—

History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history we made today.

Winston Churchill said—

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.

Whatever a person's view of history, *The Australian Book of Memories* provides a unique opportunity to write and record the history of someone who is loved and respected. I am confident that the book will become a great success and will enrich the lives of everyone who traverses its pages. Congratulations to the National Trust of Queensland for providing this unique and special opportunity to all Australians, and particularly to Warren Oxnam, the project's Queensland manager for the book, who is present in the gallery today.