




Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 15 November 2011

CUPCAKES FOR A CURE

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (8.47 pm): If members of the House love cupcakes, then all would have loved the Cupcakes for a Cure and book launch event held on Saturday, 29 October outside Coles New Farm at the Merthyr Village. Junior MasterChef winner and finalist twins Isabella and Sofia Bliss were present at this event to judge the cupcake competition, which raised funds for the children's oncology unit and to launch their first cookbook *A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That*—and a percentage of the proceeds from sales was also donated to the cause.

There were over 50 cupcake entries, which all looked fantastic. It was a wonderful effort by the local New Farm community in supporting this event to raise money for charity. Isabella, Sofia and their mother, Sylvana, tasted each and every cupcake during judging which they said was not easy, particularly in reaching their final decision regarding the winners. Congratulations to little kids category winners Daniela Sorbello, aged 4, and her sister Milana, aged 2; kids winner Lachlan Goodman, aged 11; adult winner Carol Taylor; and business winner Bonjour Patisserie. The overall winner was Vue Cafe, and I say congratulations to Dan and Matt.

There is no doubt that the twins are great cooks, but what is not widely known is that they come from a pedigree of good cooks in the family. Their great-grandmother Jean Bliss was a cook at a large stately home off Moray Street, New Farm, and then became head cook at Parliament House—this Parliament House—leading a team including her sister Betty Power. Their great-aunt Margaret Bliss also worked in the service side of the parliament restaurants, while at the same time their grandmother Rosa Spina of New Farm was part of the cleaning staff, getting to know many members and becoming close friends with the late Bob Scott and his wife, Jenny. Their great-grandmother Jean Bliss was originally in the old Parliament House kitchens, and in her second phase at Parliament House she was head cook in the new Annexe building until her retirement in the mid-1980s.

Rosa Spina is also an excellent Italian cook, and she has shared many recipes with the twins. Isabella and Sofia Bliss's cookbook *A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That* is part of their family's story—their mother Sylvana's family story—the story of New Farm Italians and the story of the New Farm community. Also some of old Parliament House's history is captured in the cookbook as the recipes of their great-grandmother Jean Bliss, head cook of the kitchens of this fine state Parliament House, have been captured and shared for all to enjoy.

However, it is the volunteers who make this event happen. So special thanks go to Santina Musumeci; emcee Symone Wilson; Christine Purdy and her team at the Mary Ryan book store; Suzanne Klich, who sorted the many cupcakes; and Alma Mujic, who stole the show with her incredible homemade purple and silver cupcake costume.

The Spina and Bliss families were out in force, but the stars were Isabella and Sofia Bliss, who signed cookbooks and worked tirelessly to ensure a great day was had by all. This was a fantastic event. Congratulations go to the twins and their family. Their father, their mother, their grandmother and all present know what great cooks these two young girls are. They made their family proud and they made the New Farm community proud as well. Well done!