




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Brookfield Show; Brookfield Showground

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.38 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of members the great success of this year's Brookfield Show, held at the Brookfield Showground, which I had the privilege of officially opening last weekend. As a local growing up in the electorate of Moggill many years ago, the annual Brookfield Show was one of the key highlights of my childhood. I now certainly enjoy returning with my own family to enjoy the varied activities, great displays, fine food, good company and the spirit of community which clearly exists. It was terrific to spend some time with good friends Tim and Libby Maiden, James and Bernie Dickson, Andrew and Peta O'Hara, as well as James and Kym Mansfield. This year saw the inclusion of a dedicated kids' zone play area, a needlework fashion parade with many participants from local schools, as well as a fantastic range of oil and watercolours as part of the art show, the opening of which I also attended last Thursday night.

To give members some historical context to the Brookfield Show and the Brookfield Showground, the reserve—that is colloquially known as the Brookfield Showground—certainly has a very long and proud history. Back in 1872, an area of some 40 acres was put aside as a reserve. Today, those 40 acres now comprise the Brookfield Cemetery, the Brookfield Showground and the Brookfield State School. Over the years, various modifications occurred with a Public Hall Reserve being created in 1885, then in 1911 the Brookfield Reserve for Recreation and Showground was proclaimed, which excluded the Public Hall Reserve.

Finally, after nearly a half century of bickering, all the dust finally settled and the two reserves were amalgamated on 30 June 1921, with the Brookfield Reserve for Showground, Recreation and Public Hall being established—and this, some 90 years on, is as we know it today. Back in 1875, the Brookfield Cricket Club came into being, with the Brookfield Reserve becoming its home ground, thus starting a relationship that has endured for over 140 years. It was great to watch the Shell Green Cricket Match last month on Anzac Day which our Brookfield side won against an Army contingent from the Enoggera Barracks.

The show committee of the Brookfield Farmers Association conducted the first one-day show on Wednesday, 20 July 1910 and, on 14-16 May 2010, the Brookfield Show Society celebrated a century of Brookfield shows. It was not until 1956 that the Brookfield Show Society, as we now know it, came into existence and since that time has provided a stable platform for the ongoing development and then consolidation of the show and its associated activities. The current three-day format of the Brookfield Show has been held since 1980. The Brookfield Show Society has weathered some difficult times but has a proud history of putting on the biggest little show in the country, together with the annual Show Ball, the Brookfield Bush Christmas and the weekly members' happy hour.

The Brookfield Showground has not come about by accident or overnight. It has taken more than a century of shared vision and quiet determination to get there and I expect that it will continue for many, many years and decades to come. Congratulations to the President of the Brookfield Show Society, Mr Cameron Dart, his committee and stewards, as well as the many volunteers who ensured a successful show this year. Also, congratulations to Margaret Willsford for her well-deserved community award.