



Speech By

**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

## ADJOURNMENT

**Demaine, Mr W**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (1.33 am): This year in Maryborough is the year of Billy Demaine. Billy Demaine was probably one of the greatest Labor men to ever walk this earth. Billy Demaine was the man who started the eight-hour day throughout Queensland. He worked for a company in Maryborough called Fairlie and Sons. Billy Demaine was an absolute champion of the working class. Billy Demaine was a man who was very principled. He was a man who built the modern-day Maryborough. To give an example, Billy Demaine was the oldest mayor ever elected in Queensland. He was elected as mayor of the Maryborough City Council at 70-odd years of age.

**Mr Dick:** There's hope for all of us.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the health minister: there is hope for all of us. In 1922 Billy Demaine led the vote to get rid of the upper house in Queensland. He was part of the suicide squad, as they were called. Billy Demaine came into the House as the oldest MLA. He was uncontested in the seat of Maryborough. He served for one year before retiring due to ill health. In 1939 Billy Demaine died. His was the first and only state funeral we have ever had in Maryborough.

This year the Maryborough branch is 126 years old—126 years of a continuous political party in Maryborough. It started off as the ALF, the Australian Labor Force. Billy Demaine remained the secretary for that branch for 50 years. We honour Billy Demaine in Maryborough. We talk about leadership in this place; in 1933 Billy Demaine was the mayor of the council and they organised a plebiscite to put sewerage in Maryborough and the town overwhelmingly voted against it and so did the councillors. Billy Demaine walked out of the town hall and said, 'We are going to have sewerage.' Maryborough was the first city in Queensland to be fully sewered because of Billy Demaine, a great Labor man.

It is ironic that Billy Demaine owned a bookshop in Maryborough and his next-door neighbour was Billy Hughes, who had an umbrella shop. Maryborough has a great history with Labor. As we know, TJ Ryan also taught at the Maryborough Grammar School.

**Mr Rickuss:** Billy Hughes was a member of every party!

**A government member:** Except the National Party!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection. He would not stoop as low as to go to the National Party. We are proud that 2016 in Maryborough is the year of Billy Demaine, a great Labor man. We are having a dinner to celebrate Billy Demaine.