




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Glebe Garden Club

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.37 pm): I rise to speak about the Glebe Garden Club of Ipswich and the recent Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo. Like me, many members may be unaware that a glebe was an historical term that referred to a plot of agricultural or horticultural land gifted to a member of the clergy. This land was used as a way to provide food and surplus income for the church that it was attached to, as well as food and small donations to any locals in dire need of assistance. It is rather apt then that the Glebe Road Uniting Church formed the Glebe Garden Club of Ipswich in November 1999, providing members of the Ipswich community with the opportunity to unite around fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Since its inception, the Glebe Garden Club has been a beacon for all things horticultural in the city of Ipswich. Attracting many to its doors through a combination of a friendly attitude and a relaxed setting, the garden club has grown beyond its initial inception as an outreach ministry for the Glebe Road Uniting Church, transforming it into a melting pot for gardening enthusiasts and amateur gardeners alike. While the club runs a number of events throughout the year—ranging from general gatherings, excursions and the occasional guest speaker—the premier event on the calendar is the Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo, something that I have been attending annually over the years and something I was privileged to attend again this year on 27 August. In its 14th year, the Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo has put on its best show yet. With appearances from the likes of Jerry Coleby-Williams and a staggering number of gardeners providing useful tips and tricks for anyone's garden, I was amazed by the variety and the passion of the Ipswich community when it comes to gardening.

While past events have been predominantly Ipswich affairs, the latest instalment has seen strong patronage from areas like Warwick, Logan and even the Tweed Heads on top of the strong local turnout. I had the pleasure of chatting with the secretary of the Glebe Garden Club, David Murphy, about the event. He said that the day was a huge success on all fronts and that at closing time there were still people not wanting to leave. It is testament to the compassion and generosity of people like David that the event played host to not only the best and brightest in the horticultural arts but included many of Ipswich's local charities who were given the opportunity to speak and present to the community about the hard work and passion that drives them.

Further to this, after accounting for the cost of future shows, much of the proceeds from the event are donated to local charities, proving that the philanthropic spirit of the glebe is still alive and well. As the member for Ipswich, it is always a privilege and a joy to be able to participate and assist in community projects wherever and whenever I can. The Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo is no exception. If honourable members have a passion for gardening or just an insatiable curiosity for all things horticultural and homemade, I recommend they attend next year's 15th celebrations.