



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Greenslopes Electorate

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.49 am): Forest covered hills, mountain creeks, sugar gliders, koalas, butterflies, bees and a myriad of plant and bird life, these images are not generally what a person thinks of when they think of an inner-city electorate. That is exactly what people will find if they visit the electorate of Greenslopes. It is wonderful to have Whites Hill Reserve and the Mount Gravatt reserve section of Toohey Forest, and many other areas of remnant bushland, Bowies Flat Wetland and many tributaries of the Norman Creek most linked by flora and fauna corridors in the electorate.

These areas are protected, restored and maintained by many dedicated volunteers, but I want to focus on the Mount Gravatt Environment Group. I had the great opportunity to share an end-of-year celebration with the group. Nestled in amongst the butterfly pollinator link, that is being developed by the group across Mount Gravatt State High School, my daughter and I were treated to a wonderful outdoor afternoon tea, surrounded by beautiful bush and the people who care for it. Forgetting that we were five kilometres from the CBD was very easy.

It is good to reflect on the words of the president, Laurie Deacon—

It's the people that make the difference but it's the environment that makes the people! We are strengthened, encouraged, enriched ... made peaceful and healthy by the place where we live ... by our Forest Reserves and the wildlife who we are honoured to share it with. Who doesn't want to live amidst Colour and Movement!

Colour and movement is exactly what greets people when they browse through the annual calendar produced by the group as part of their annual nature photography workshops. The 2015 calendar focused on macro shots, and the amazing array of plants, animals, rocks and natural features captured is truly astounding.

The Mount Gravatt Environment Group is made up of people who live on and around the mountain or are interested in the community development work they do. They have been going for around 20 years and have about 30 active members and over 200 supporters from all places, including a strong supporter in myself here in this place. So many people have contributed much over the 20 years but a few deserve special mention—Sue Jones, Mike Fox, Brett Dugdale, Sue Ackroyd, Liz Pell, Sheamus O'Conner, Len Kann, Justin Schreiweis and, of course, Laurie Deacon.

The group is as much about building community as it is about protecting the environment. In addition to the photography workshops and regular working bees to protect and restore bushland, the group offers guided walks and education sessions, they are building a pollinator link garden and they are placing interpretive signs on tracks through the mountain. Track maps for walkers have been developed. The group monitors nesting boxes and koalas. Perhaps my favourite activity is the green gym bush care program which connects local kids with each other and nature while helping them to keep fit.

I look forward to my next visit to spend time with this fantastic group. So next time members are driving down the south-east freeway, look left just after the Marshall Road turn off and gaze at Mount Gravatt. Take a moment to think about the colour, the movement and the community being created by the members of the Mount Gravatt Environmental Group.