



Speech By  
**Tarnya Smith**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mount Ommaney Electorate, Lunar New Year**

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (10.19 pm): I rise this evening to share with the House the wonderful hospitality that has been shown to me through the festivities of the Lunar New Year 2016, Year of the Monkey, with many events across Brisbane being celebrated. It was a pleasure to represent the Queensland opposition as the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural affairs.

On 5 February we kicked off the new year celebrations at the annual Vietnamese New Year Tet festival at Inala. I have attended this event for many years, and Dr Cuong Bui and his hardworking team never fail to impress the crowds that attend this event. It is getting bigger every year with a fabulous array of authentic food and performances. The Vietnamese Mutual Assistance Queensland Year of the Monkey lunchtime celebrations continued the next day at a very popular Darra restaurant. That proved to be equally successful. I thank Mr Van Pham and his organisation for their hospitality on such an enjoyable afternoon.

Last weekend the Taiwanese Friendship Group held their afternoon celebrations to welcome in the new year at the Taiwan Centre. Mr Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, accompanied me and we had a wonderful time.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mrs SMITH:** It was wonderful, in the hands of the very capable Lewis Lee, who emceed the event with such professionalism. Our thanks go to Billy Wu, the president, who is a good supporter and friend of multicultural events.

Finally, I advise the House of the wonderful company we enjoyed that evening at the Brisbane Chinese Lions celebration at the Landmark Restaurant to not only acknowledge the Year of the Monkey but also to celebrate their 20-year anniversary, under the guidance of current president Johnson Chen. It was very good to see all the founding members there. They have over 40 members. We had a wonderful night, and it would not be Chinese celebrations without the lion dance. I am hoping that everybody has a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. For those truly memorable experiences, I thank all of the different multicultural organisations that opened up their hearts and showed us hospitality on this very special occasion.