



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Roy Emerson, Statue; Nanango Hospital, Buildings**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.51 pm): It was terrific to join with Blackbutt community members to recently celebrate the official opening of a life-size bronze statue immortalising Australian tennis great Roy Emerson. Roy Emerson was born on a dairy farm just kilometres from Blackbutt and called Blackbutt home before he began his tennis career. Roy, who we all know and love, was a former No. 1 tennis player who won 12 major single titles, 16 Grand Slam tournament men's double titles and is undoubtedly one of Australia's greatest players. It was an historic and momentous occasion to honour their homegrown hero. Roy and his wife Joy attended along with other Australian tennis greats Wendy Turnbull, Ashley Cooper and Mal Anderson.

I especially want to pay tribute to the volunteers from the Blackbutt and District Heritage Association, particularly Noelene Bird, Iris Crumpton, Hazel Christie-Small and their team of committee members who deserve an enormous congratulations for their commitment to commissioning the statue and staffing the Roy Emerson Museum. They also partnered with Tennis Queensland, Tennis Australia and Mr Peter Rasey of Frew Park—formerly the Milton Tennis Centre—in Brisbane to ensure the project had as much support as possible. They did an amazing job in raising some \$37,000, which was pledged through various local groups and individuals. The statue forms part of the Roy Emerson Museum, which is based in the former Nukku State School building in Blackbutt. Together they provide locals and tourists with an insight into this wonderfully talented tennis player and his connection with Blackbutt and the South Burnett. The group also aim to name part of the D'Aguilar Highway as Roy Emerson Way, and although this project has been rejected by the current Labor government, I now offer my support to restart the petition to make this a reality.

In relation to the relocation of the Nanango Hospital buildings, this is typical Labor form in how they decide not to support our local communities. When the local historical society—in particular Ros Gregor—heard that these buildings were just going to be demolished, she contacted me. We fought hard, and it was fantastic to see these buildings relocated to the Nanango Show Society. Of course the committee there were very pleased to have these facilities, and what a great common-sense outcome it has been. I really do want to congratulate the Nanango Show Society as well for their ongoing work and utilising the historic buildings that we have been able to secure from the Nanango Hospital.