




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Maryborough Electorate, Labour Day

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise to talk about Labour Day in Maryborough. Labour Day in Maryborough has been revived. On 5 May, we held one of the biggest Labour Days in modern history in Maryborough. I would like to thank the people involved in Labour Day because Maryborough has a very proud history surrounding Labour Day. We have people like Billy Demaine and Brendan Hansen, who was not only a council representative but a state representative and a federal member for Wide Bay. There is a wealth of history in the Wide Bay area, particularly in Maryborough.

On the Sunday, we had a fantastic march with over 700 people marching the streets of Maryborough for Labour Day. When we restarted Labour Day four years ago, we had six people turn up, and we have built it now in a bit over four years to 700 people.

Mr Butcher: They're Bruce Saunders supporters.

Mr SAUNDERS: They are. I take that interjection from the member for Gladstone because they are very good supporters of mine. They are very good community people too. They are community minded people. They are the people who have helped bring the services back to Maryborough city.

I would like to thank the following people: Alison Finley-Bissett from the Together union; Pete Killeen from the AMWU—we call Pete the unofficial mayor of Maryborough because he has done so much work at Downer; Stephen McGinley from the Together union; Glenn Riley from the CFMMEU; and Jim Nilon from the Together union. There are so many people who got behind Labour Day and built it up. It was very poignant, because Pete said to me on Labour Day that this was the workers' Christmas. I am so proud to be the local member and to help revive Labour Day in Maryborough for our history.

One of the highlights of Labour Day was the standing ovation received by Maryborough's first lady, Mrs Moira Hansen, as she entered the Memorial Bowls Club, which is the home of the labour movement in Maryborough. I have had a lot to do with the Hansen family over the years. It was a fine tribute when every man, woman and child in that bowls club gave Mrs Hansen a standing ovation. It brought tears to Mrs Hansen's eyes because this is a lady who has been a very strong part of the labour movement in Maryborough city through her family and also through connections with her late husband, Brendan. It was a fine tribute to a marvellous lady in our community.

It was fantastic to see the people lining the streets cheering on the community members for Labour Day. There are so many people who are making sure that Labour Day does not die in Maryborough. If Jason Scanes wins the election on Saturday, Labour Day will be very strong for many years to come because it is 45 years since we have had a Labor member for Wide Bay. We need to change the government because we need a Labor member in Wide Bay.