



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Carina Leagues Club, 50-Year Anniversary

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.00 pm): Fifty years is a great milestone for any organisation. I want to acknowledge the Carina Leagues Club which celebrated its 50th anniversary last Friday night at a gala event on the footy field. This great Chatsworth club, which I am also very proud to be the club patron of, started trading in October 1970, operating under a sporting licence before becoming the first club to be granted a liquor licence with trading hours of 10 am to 11 pm on 22 October 1971—50 years ago.

In the early days the club operated with three staff, including the general manager—or in those days he was called the secretary manager. Nowadays they are a major employer with around 130 staff. The club thought they were in the big time when their membership base hit 3,000. Well, it has now peaked to approximately 60,000 members. In December 1991 the Carina Leagues Club board was faced with a pivotal moment in its history: the question of whether to get poker machines or not—the one-armed bandits. The board voted by the slimmest of margins to get pokies—14 of them at first—and they were on their way. The rest, as they say, is history.

Fifty years ago the goals of the Carina Leagues Club were to provide facilities for its members and guests, foster the aims and objectives of the Carina Rugby League Club and Camp Hill Carina Welfare Association and assist by financial or other means local sporting groups, schools and charities. These goals remain the same today and, amazingly, the Carina Leagues Club has contributed around \$25 million of support to these groups over the last five decades.

Every local sporting club has its legends. I want to pay tribute to the legendary Arthur Hingst who was the manager of the club for an incredible 28 years. I also acknowledge the current team headed by Doug Wakefield who has been the club manager for the last 11 years. To life members, past chairmen and women, both current and previous board members, financial life members and long-term members, I say thank you on behalf of the Chatsworth community. The Carina Leagues Club is truly the heart and soul of the Chatsworth community. When I grew up in Carina in the 1970s I was very lucky. I had a loving mum and dad. Not everyone in my community was as fortunate. Like many clubs in the seventies, the leagues club was symbolic of pastoral care for young guys and girls who came from, in some cases, challenged social conditions. It is for that reason that I place on record a happy 50th, Carina Leagues Club.