




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Sri Lanka Day Festival; Country Women's Association, 100th Anniversary

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.33 pm): The Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations coordinate what is fast becoming a fixture on the Mount Ommaney social calendar. Last year I spoke in parliament about it retrospectively, but this year I want to share an open invitation with my community and all of Queensland to come along and experience Sri Lankan food, arts and culture. Last year attendees were treated to a fantastic food experience. I am told that the food ran out a little bit early, such was the unprecedented popularity of the event. This year the event will have even more food and entertainment, and I hope we can look forward to the same beautiful weather too.

The Sri Lankan Day Festival is organised by a wonderful committee of hardworking people and a number of member organisations. I want to read their names into *Hansard*: Sinhala Association of Queensland; Silver Fawn Club; Spur Queensland; Sri Lanka Society of Queensland; Sri Lanka Sports Association of Queensland; and the Australian-Sri Lankan Friendship Association of Queensland. Celebrations like this do not just happen, as we in this House all know. They take thousands of hours from hundreds of volunteers led by volunteers including secretary Jay Weeraseeka and president Jay Weerawardena, to name just a few. I am so honoured to be hosting what I consider to be a hugely significant celebration of the Sri Lankan community and their cultural contribution to Queensland at Rocks Riverside Park in my electorate on Sunday, 11 September. I hope to see everyone there.

From one of my newer community organisations to one of my oldest, can I extend congratulations to the Country Women's Association of Australia, which is celebrating 100 years this year. Our Queensland Country Women's Association has a thriving branch in Oxley led by the fabulous Norma Lovelace OAM who, along with our old guard CWA members, regularly hosts fantastic events in our community welcoming anyone who loves a hot cup of tea and beautiful scones. Of course, there is always an opportunity to purchase a jar or six of jam, which I did this Saturday just past armed with a shopping list from my enterprising son, Heath.

We are also very lucky to have many younger members in our Country Women's Association, and by younger I mean people under 50. We have people like Sally Gardner and Belinda Fisher, but can I give a special mention to very youngest member of the Oxley CWA, Tempe. Tempe is barely in her teens but she is a regular fixture already at our local events—when not in school, of course—and most recently helped cater one of their recent events with her delicious pinwheel pastries. The future of the CWA is in safe hands with members like Tempe. Happy 100 years! Thank you to the member for Ipswich West for his lending me his pin, which he has as an honorary member of the CWA. Happy birthday, CWA!