




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Toohey Electorate

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.52 pm): Mr Speaker, as you well know, both of our electorates have many community events, so tonight I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on a number of community events I recently attended, each showcasing the diverse cultural tapestry of my electorate.

On 16 August—I know that you were also present—I attended the Queensland Cantonese Unity Association's grand opening event, which was held here in parliament. The opening marks the beginning of a new chapter in this vibrant community. The establishment of this association is not just a celebration of heritage and tradition; it is a testament to the strength and resilience of my multicultural electorate.

On 3 August I had the privilege of attending the English-Chinese bilingual communication course opening ceremony and the Multicultural English Society of Queensland's anniversary celebration. The launch of the English-Chinese bilingual communication course is a testament to our commitment to bridging cultures and enhancing mutual understanding. Language is such a powerful tool not just for communication but for forging connections and building relationships. As we embrace the diversity within our community it is essential that we equip ourselves with the skills to communicate effectively and respectfully across cultures.

On 21 July I had the privilege of attending the Queensland Writers Association's 30 anniversary which included *Songs Under the Southern Cross*, a book release event at the Garden City library. Since its inception in 1993 the Queensland Chinese Writers Association has been a cornerstone of cultural expression within our Australian-Chinese community comprising writers, artists and cultural enthusiasts. They have enriched our literal landscape with their creativity and dedication.

Songs Under the Southern Cross is not just a collection of literary works, it is a testament to over three decades of effort and collaboration. Featuring contributions from 40 writers, including novels, poetry and essays, this book reflects their diverse experiences in Brisbane as their second home. The book, a collection of novels, poetry and essays, reflects the experience of Australian-Chinese life, bridging cultures through both English and Chinese narratives. It is a testament to a rich literary tradition and cultural exchange.