

Speech to Brisbane City Council

Banyo and Nundah Libraries

9th September 2008

Councillor FLESSER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to talk about Banyo and Nundah Libraries. Firstly, Madam Chair, about the Gold Star Reading Program. Now, this is a great program that was introduced back in 2002 and continues today and it's very, very successful in both Banyo and Nundah Libraries.

Madam Chair, I was lucky enough to go to the Banyo presentation last Friday afternoon and the Banyo Gold Star Reading Program where it's been going ahead in leaps and bounds in the last few years, there's now well over a hundred kids involved and there was about 70 of them at the presentation on Friday afternoon.

Now, Councillor KNAPP was going to attend but unfortunately she couldn't make it which is a real pity because beforehand I arranged with my staff cause the hall is right next to the ward office and also with the library staff. We're going to have a competition for the kids to draw Councillor KNAPP.

It was all very funny, it was all very funny until we found out that Councillor KNAPP wasn't going to turn up. So then the consensus was well, we're going to get the kids to draw you, that's me. It wasn't quite so funny then. But Madam Chair, the kids at Banyo really have got a real artistic flair and I've brought a couple of them to show—a couple of the entries to show you.

This was the winner, from Katie, absolutely—very generous with the amount of hair on my head. So that one was obviously the winner. It's interesting how you think your perceive you're viewed by kids, but when you look at something like this...I scare a lot of children, Madam Chair, I scare children. And then there's a very—

Councillor BOURKE: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chairman: Point of order against you. Point of order against you, Councillor FLESSER. Councillor BOURKE.

Councillor BOURKE: Will Councillor FLESSER be happy to table those documents?

Councillor FLESSER: No. Madam Chair, I will not be tabling these drawings of me! This one, very, very long arms. I don't know how deep my pockets are. Another one, very generous with the hair. That was a runner up. Madam Chair, obviously my mother should've got my ears pinned back when I was a child. I love this one. It's just a head in space and there's the Herman Munster, a very flat head; a potato with hair.

And Madam Chair, my absolute favourite, this is how the children in my ward view me, Madam Chair, the head on legs. So Madam Chair, just a head on legs. So Madam Chair, it was a great afternoon, congratulating the kids taking part in the Gold Star Program. I'm looking forward to absolutely continuing Gold Star program in Banyo next year and also Nundah.

Another thing about Banyo Library, it's a pity that Councillor KNAPP wasn't there because I did congratulate her for achieving the \$600,000 that's in the budget this year to upgrade the Banyo Library. There was some preliminary plans done back in 2003 to upgrade the library.

Unfortunately it's taken till now before the money's actually flowed through. I know that architects have been there looking at the library. There are some structural issues that can be dealt with. People have been coming up with ideas and approaching me with ideas about what could happen there.

One of the ideas is for a coffee shop and Madam Chair, I know that there's a local coffee shop that would be quite keen to get the franchise there. So I'm really looking forward to the Banyo Library being upgraded with that \$600,000 that's in this year's budget.

I recently went up to Nundah Library. Nundah Library is not in as a happy position as Banyo, of course. The library is too

small for the area there. It's always crowded. There's always big line ups to get onto the Internet there which is quite sad. I was there a couple of months ago and I saw someone was very, very disappointed. They clearly wanted to get onto the Internet to do some job searching and the PCs were booked out for quite a while which is quite a pity.

But as we know, the Nundah Library, the developers of the Woolworth's Shopping Centre are doing stage two of their development in Nundah and they've offered to Council a thousand square metres in the new shopping centre in the stage two that they're building. Now, Councillor KNAPP and I have met with the developers. They've put forward a proposal, I know, to Council. I know that the Council is considering that.

I'm really looking forward what I think what looks like a great proposal by those developers. I really do hope that Councillor KNAPP takes them up on the offer that they've made. The old Nundah Library, as I said, is too small, it's getting too old, it's certainly in the wrong location for a modern library.

One located in the shopping centre clearly will be a great benefit to local residents. And I must say the local residents are almost 100 per cent behind the moving of the Nundah Library over to the new shopping centre. As always, there will be a few people who are a bit reluctant to change.

Madam Chair, I think that moving the library to a much bigger, better place that's with the shops, we'll see the same sort of success that we've seen at places like Carindale. So Madam Chair, I really do implore Councillor KNAPP and the LORD MAYOR to come up with the money that's necessary to move the library.

Of course, it won't be all cost. The old library will still be there and I'm hopeful that there's some way that the Council will be able to offset some of the costs of moving the library from the old location to the new one. So Madam Chair, provided the money comes forward for Nundah to move over to the new

shopping centre, that's a great outlook for Nundah and certainly it's a good outlook for Banyo at the moment with \$600,000 in this year's budget. Thank you.

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