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A BOOK ABOUT IPSWICH AND A STRONG SENSE COMMUNITY FROM THE UQ BOILERHOUSE

A strong sense of community is what holds a community together.

Preserving that sense of community through times of change is the aim of a book launched today by the University of Queensland's Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre, as part of Queensland's 150th Celebrations, Rachel Nolan, Minister for Transport and State Member for Ipswich, said today.

The Queensland Government granted the University of Queensland, Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre at Ipswich \$10,000 in Q150 Community Funding towards strengthening and sharing an understanding of Ipswich through a historical record celebrating the development of Ipswich's identity.

"The *Mines, Mills and Shopping Malls – Celebrating the Identity of Ipswich* acknowledges that sharing stories of the past is fundamental to sharing a strong sense of community with newcomers to Ipswich," she said.

"The book reminds us that Ipswich has a rich history and today it is enjoying rapid growth.

"Yet it was adversity that originally pulled this community together.

"In the course of research for this book, researcher Danni Jansen, says there were three recurring elements that people pointed to when it came to their strong sense of community.

"These were the 1972 Box Flat mining disaster, the 1974 floods, and the firey destruction of Reids department store in 1985.

"The turning point which gave Ipswich a new lease on life was the Council amalgamations of 1995.

"Council went on to launch Ipswich's own internet service provider and global arts centre.

"The rest is history as they say as we see many families heading to the more affordable fields of Ipswich to build their homes and raise their children.

"It could be said the pinnacle of recognition for Ipswich came in 2007 when the United Nation's LivCom named Ipswich the world's most liveable mid-sized city.

"Suddenly, it was cool to live at Ipswich.

"Look around us, and see what LivCom saw. We've got it good.

"Ipswich is one of the few places in Queensland that has preserved its beautiful historic architecture and you could say we have become the home of the quintessential wrought iron and weatherboard Queenslander.

"With Queensland's birthday year, this is our year to celebrate our people, our places and our stories.

"I congratulate everyone involved in the production of *Mines, Mills and Shopping Malls*, for reminding us in 48-pages how good we have it here in Ipswich whether we've lived here all our lives or are the new kids on the block."

Find out what's on in Queensland at www.q150.qld.gov.au.

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