

HOLY FAMILY ANGLICAN CHURCH, YOKINE - FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Yokine

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [12.50 pm]: My wife Susan and I, accompanied by my cousin Angela, a visitor from “old” south Wales, were honoured recently to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the Holy Family Anglican Church, Yokine. As my wife and I are regular members of the congregation, it was wonderful to see community members come from far and wide to celebrate the church’s fiftieth birthday, presided over by the Reverend John Ward, his wife Julie, and recently appointed assistant priests, the Reverend Obede Amosa, the Reverend Timon Yanga and the Reverend Joice Rianga, Deacon Assistant, who is now minister to the growing Sudanese congregation, which numbers almost 400 souls. Church wardens Alex Shaw and Jane Wilson, parish secretary Julie Ward and treasurer Hara Kawulusan, very ably supported by the entire church community, provided a most enjoyable and nostalgic evening of fun, jazz music and impromptu performances by many parishioners. Great food and great fellowship was the theme of the evening, which highlighted five decades of friendly supportive teachings based on sound Christian principles. It was wonderful to look back and reminisce, but it also highlighted the challenges facing our congregation and our growing friendship with our Sudanese brothers and sisters. The Christian principles that underpin this ministry will ensure the acceptance of our Sudanese brothers and sisters into our inclusive society and guarantee that they take their place in this amazing adventure that we now call multicultural Australia. In the 50 years since the laying of the foundation stone of the Don Bailey Hall and the subsequent building of the church itself there has been enormous change. However, the more things change, the more they remain the same, and as we approach the Christmas festival we are reminded that Christ’s message is as relevant today as it was 2006 years ago. I congratulate the Reverend John Ward and the entire congregation of the Holy Family Anglican Church, Yokine on its fiftieth birthday.