

Where are they now? Regular series on former city residents

Politics aside, Senator proud of upbringing



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YOU can take the girl out of Toowoomba, but you can't take Toowoomba out of the girl.

One of the biggest political names to come out of the garden city, Senator Claire Moore, is proud of her Toowoomba heritage.

Since leaving home as a university student, Senator Moore has worked her way through the public service and into the upper echelons of the Labor movement.

She attributes much of her success to her Toowoomba upbringing.

"A lot has to do with the nuns and lay teachers at St Saviour's College," she said.

"As a student, they were always very outspoken that women could achieve success.

"There was never any option but to be educated and to work to effect in the community."

Claire's passion for politics evolved at university as a reaction against "Whitlam's policies leading onto Keating policies" in the Labor movement.

When she began working in the Commonwealth Public Service, the world of politics really struck her as an option.

In 1994, she was elected branch secretary of the Community and Public Sector Union, a position she held until she was elected to the Senate in 2001.

Since then, she has travelled the country on political campaigns focusing on women's issues and mental health.

"My office is in the (Fortitude) Valley, but one of the joys of being a senator is that your electorate is all over the state," she said.

"I never get back to Toowoomba as much as I'd like to, but one of my sisters still lives in Westbrook so I visit her quite a bit.

"In my opinion, there's no better place than Picnic Point in the whole world."

Senator Moore has been re-elected twice since 2001.

"Politics is one of the few jobs that really give you the choice whether you want to be in it or not. No-one is forcing you," she said.

"We do it because we want to see changes."

But regardless of how far she travels, Toowoomba is never far from her thoughts.

"It's become a joke with my friends in Canberra that no matter where you go, there will always be some link to Toowoomba," she said.

"It's an absolutely fabulous place. I can't think of a better place to grow up."



SUCCESS STORY: Senator Claire Moore credits her Toowoomba upbringing for her rise through politics.

PICTURE: NEV MADSEN

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IN BRIEF

Model railway display

● THE Darling Downs Model Railway Club will be operating its Model Railway Museum and Display Centre during the Ag Show at the Toowoomba Showgrounds on September 6, 7 and 8.

The Model Railway Museum and Display Centre is in pavilion three, near the Berghofer Pavilion. Look for the station sign "Glenvale" and the railway tunnel portal.

Inside you will find operating model train layouts along with model railway and prototype railway memorabilia, some going back to the 1920s.

There is no additional entry fee, although donations are always welcome. The venue is wheelchair and stroller friendly.

Charity rodeo

● IT'S bulls, barrels, utes and music at the annual Fossil Downs Charity Bush Rodeo Extravaganza, on today at Fifteen Mile Rd, Murphys Creek.

The event features top-class rodeo with RSA affiliated cowboys in action, plus all the thrills of the richest barrel racing in Australia and a ute show to boot. There will be poddy calf rides for the kids and a host of country music entertainment.

Some of the biggest and meanest bulls from Danny McLaughlin's Toogoolawah mountain country will be in action to test the bull riders, including Wild Child, Air Borne and Black Pearl.

Gates open at 10am today, with entry costing \$25 for adults, children \$10, concessions \$15 and families \$40.

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