



Speech by

Mr G. HEALY

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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POLICE BLUE HEARTS AWARDS; BONANZA TIPPING COMPETITION

Mr HEALY (Toowoomba North—NPA) (9.27 p.m.): Over the last two years, a very worthwhile and successful promotion has occurred as part of the annual Statewide Queensland Police Blue Heart Awards. These awards have seen policemen and women entering a fundraising competition to raise money to support two very worthwhile causes, Community Supporting Police and the National Heart Foundation.

Community Supporting Police is a community-oriented organisation that is aimed at enhancing relations between the community and police through welfare, education and research. As part of its support for police and their families, CSP operates Rosalie House in Brisbane and Woody Point Cottage at Redcliffe, which provide free accommodation for police and their families in emergency situations. As most members are aware, the National Heart Foundation is a non-profit organisation that works to reduce premature deaths and improve heart health for Queenslanders.

In 1996, Inspector Garry Wells of the southern police region came up with a concept to assist entrants in the awards. As someone who enjoys the sport of kings, Inspector Wells initiated the Bonanza Tipping Competition to assist entrants from the southern region. The competition works this way: companies are invited to donate \$5,000 as a gold sponsor or \$1,000 as a silver sponsor and enter a four-person team. Teams are then invited to Toowoomba's Clifford Park Racecourse with the task of attempting to correctly select the first four placegetters in each race at Toowoomba on the day. Points are awarded for each correct selection and bonus points are awarded for things such as quinellas and trifectas. At the end of the day, the team with the highest points wins. Last year, a total of 67 gold and silver teams competed for over \$140,000 worth of prizes, which included new cars, holiday packages, computer packages and much more, including a thoroughbred racing package. Most importantly, in just two years the competition has helped to raise more than \$100,000 for those two worthwhile charitable organisations.

This year on Saturday, 10 October, the competition will again be based at Toowoomba's Clifford Park Racecourse, with both gold and silver teams competing there and also, for the first time, at several other racecourses and venues throughout the State. As well as the prize packages that may be won, each team will compete for a perpetual trophy, the Commissioner's Shield. On behalf of the board I thank the Queensland Police Commissioner, Mr Jim O'Sullivan, for his ongoing support of this concept.

I also mention that since its inception my parliamentary colleagues the member for Toowoomba South, the member for Crows Nest, the member for Cunningham and the member for Warwick have joined me in participating in this competition as a silver sponsor. We have not won too much over the years, but I have a funny feeling that this year our luck is about to change. This may be an ideal opportunity to remind other members of the House that it would certainly be advantageous to the cause if they too considered participating in the competition if one is being conducted in or around their electorates. The weekend's activities also include a sportsman's dinner, a celebrity breakfast and tours of some of the Darling Downs' more famous thoroughbred studs.

As I mentioned earlier, the Police Blue Heart Awards is a Statewide activity that is managed by its own board. It was brought about as a consequence of relations between the Commissioner of Police, a community group known as Community Supporting Police Inc., and the National Heart Foundation. The Queensland Police Service entered into a partnership with the Heart Foundation and

developed this fundraising and community-based event. This year's event is expected to raise in excess of \$200,000.

This concept deserves bipartisan support and again I suggest to members from Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Gladstone, the Sunshine Coast and here in Brisbane—where the satellite competitions are being held—to get in contact with their regional police headquarters and offer as much assistance as possible. It is hoped that in time the fundraising award and ambassador award will carry the status and recognition in the Australian community similar to that of the Miss Australia competition and other worthy awards. Along the way, strategic partners TAB Queensland, Sky Channel, Apple Computers, Telstra, Saatchi and Saatchi, and Ernst and Young are assisting in making this vision a reality.

The Police Blue Heart Awards themselves encourage police and police employees to join with the community in a partnership which allows individuals to demonstrate their skills and abilities in a positive sense, as well as helping a wonderful charitable cause.
