



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

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SCHOOLS, CABOOLTURE ELECTORATE

Mr FELDMAN Caboolture—ONP) (11.10 p.m.): I rise with great pleasure to advise this House of a major achievement in the promotion of arts in education in Caboolture. It has taken me a little while to be able to get a speaking spot to talk about the arts in education in Caboolture.

On 14 September 1999, I witnessed three schools from the Caboolture electorate, Wamuran State School, Tullawong State School and the Bribie Island State School, perform in the 1999 Wakakirri at the Performing Arts Centre at South Bank. This is the primary schools' music, dance drama eisteddfod for Queensland and, in fact, the Australian Primary Educational Institutions eisteddfod.

I give great credit to the more than 700 children who performed in the Wakakirri that night but, more importantly, to those young and aspiring artists and actors and dancers from Wamuran State School, Tullawong State School and Bribie Island State School. Special mention should also be made of the support of the principals of those schools, Jim Kearney from the Tullawong State School, Phillip Carleton from the Bribie Island State School, and Lance Boucaut from Wamuran State School. I also give accolades to the many parents and schoolteachers who gave their time, their money and their energy to fundraise, to sew costumes, to manufacture props, to feed the entourage, to choreograph the production, to get the children to the venues and, finally, to just encourage their performance. It takes a great deal of time and effort, especially from parents, to get these children to and from their many practices. Great credit goes to the communities of Caboolture, Wamuran and Bribie Island for their support of the schools and of these children, especially the struggling small businesses, who reached deep into their diminishing profits to assist these schools to make these performances.

The finals and the grand finalist schools, carved to just 14 schools, was a wonderment to both the eye and ear. I would like to boast that these three schools from the Caboolture area displayed their immense talent by making the grand finals. It was a credit and a fairytale that their talent got them as far as the grand final. Unfortunately, they did not receive the top three placings. However, all three schools received recognition: Tullawong with an encouragement award, Bribie Island with a highly commended for theme, and Wamuran with a highly commended for story and drama in music. As I said, unfortunately, these schools did not take out the first three places, but we will leave that to next year. Congratulations go to the winners, which were St Mary's, Ferny Hills and Pacific Paradise. I know that all the children had a good time and they were exceptionally well behaved, especially the children from my colleague's area of Hervey Bay, who won the award for being the best behaved school there. We certainly look forward to next year.

While I am talking about schools, I cannot let this opportunity go by without talking about some schools in the Caboolture area that are in need. Again, I thank the Minister for making that \$820,000 available to the Elimbah State School, because at that stage 300 children were sharing just six toilets. The teaching of music at that school was actually done in a tent. Buying lunch was done out of a canteen that was really a caravan. There was only one building there to shelter under in wet weather. The school's parents and citizen's association secretary, Robyn Reed, said that the school had been told that it would not receive State Government funding for the amenity block and the new teaching block. Shortly after that, the school did receive a letter from the Minister in relation to the grant, which was always available. He stated that he did not know why the school had been told otherwise. That was good to see.

Jim Kearney of the Tullawong State School said that the teaching and music block at his school would also be built. It was also struggling to cope with the numbers. It was also interesting to see, too, that after a lot of letters from me, the Minister has finally reacted and the Caboolture State School has been told that it is going to receive some sort of upgrade to their toilet block, which I highlighted in the House some time ago as being in desperate need of being addressed. The toilets were stained, there was a smell and there were no facilities within the toilet for cleaning children's hands. The eating area was located just outside this amenity, which was located under one of the two-storey buildings. The smell that comes from there in summer is just something to experience. It is just a pleasure to see that that matter is finally being addressed. The school will receive some sort of funding towards that.
