



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SCOTT

### MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

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Hansard 1 November 2001

#### PENTLAND AMATEUR RACE DAY

**Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT** (Charters Towers—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): I recently had the opportunity of attending the Pentland amateur race and community fun day, and what a great day it was. For those who do not know where Pentland is, I point out it is a small and very energetic community on the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Hughenden.

Race meetings in small communities are some of the most important social events of the year and bring people together from all over the region. Sometimes these are the only times friends get to see each other for months on end. Of course, these events do not take place without a great deal of planning and organisation, and the people who do all the work to prepare the venue, run the stalls, attend the gate, et cetera, are all volunteers—volunteers who give of their time and effort to help weld the scattered population of their region together into a single unit for a short time.

This is a time when everyone enjoys themselves—when graziers and ringers, road workers and housewives, fettlers and townsfolk all rub shoulders and let down their collective hair. It is a time to forget about rainfall for a while, unless it affects the condition of the track, to forget about El Nino and La Nina—unless they are running in the fourth race—and to concentrate on the racing, the meeting again of old friends and just generally having a good time. It is well documented that people in the bush work hard and play hard—and good luck to them; they deserve the fun they make for themselves and the surrounding community.

I offer my special congratulations to Jack and Kay Sullivan and the Pentland community. This trip to Pentland was one of my ways of keeping my commitment to the people of my electorate. I believe the elected member should make every attempt to attend events of this type and be as accessible as possible to their constituents. In conjunction with my visiting offices—introduced to bring accessibility to their member to every corner of my vast electorate—I will show my support for events such as the Pentland races whenever I can.

It was a privilege to travel the 220-kilometre round trip on the day to attend a race meeting which is truly part of the heartbeat of the bush. Congratulations to the Pentland amateur race club, their community and all involved. I ask the parliament to join with me today in saluting the Pentland Amateur race club for a job well done!

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