



Speech by

DIANNE REILLY

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MUDGEERABA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (1.39 a.m.): I have referred in the past to Mudgeeraba's proud history and the community spirit which sets this township apart. Mr Deputy Speaker, this morning I have the pleasure of describing for you an event which married these two distinctive qualities. The Mudgeeraba Heritage Festival, held in the first week of October, was a local celebration of culture and history. The festival was launched with a gala street party packed with activity and entertainment. Performers and visitors alike dressed in period costume—stalls displayed heritage arts and crafts and vintage and veteran cars, carriages and antiques lined the street. Local artists celebrated our region's proud history through song, poetry, music and dance and even old-fashioned story telling—an appropriate medium considering Mudgeeraba's Aboriginal meaning as the 'place of tall stories'.

I had the unique privilege of assisting in the judging of the Hinterland Hunk Competition—challenges which involved holding sixpacks of beer at arm's length, 'sheila calling', costume and appearance and talent. It was the only competition of its kind where the ability to do push-ups rated above singing or oratory skills. I and my staff proudly wore heritage-style pinafores, which I made with the help of some expertise, sewing machines and an enormous amount of assistance from dear friends. The week's events included a bush poet's breakfast, a golf day, the display of a heritage model railway, the Hinterland Ball and the performance of a play written for the Festival titled *Bunyip Saves the Rainforest*. This colourful bit of children's theatre told in rhyming verse the battle between native fauna and feral species and the legend of the local mascot, the bunyip.

Another highlight of the festival was the model railway depicting the original rail line which once serviced the Gold Coast Hinterland. It was reconstructed in fine, accurate detail by local model rail enthusiast and Lion's Club Secretary, Jim Stevens. Accolades for the festival must go almost solely to festival creator and coordinator and writer of *Bunyip Saves the Rainforest*, Chamber of Commerce President Ted Skuse. Ted and his wife, Sue, who made all the costumes for the play and many of the heritage costumes, work tirelessly all year to put on a first-rate event and they, the many volunteers, the businesses and everyone who attended and who made this annual event a roaring success are to be heartily congratulated.
