



Speech by

# STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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Hansard 29 May 2001

## BURDEKIN GROWER RACE DAY

**Mr RODGERS** (Burdekin—ALP) (11.42 p.m.): Last Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the premier racing and social event of north Queensland, the \$100,000 Burdekin Grower Race Day, which was held at the Home Hill racecourse in the Burdekin. It is a good racecourse.

In just over two short years, this event has grown into the best event on the racing calendar in the north. It was organised by a local identity and shire councillor Henry Peterson and a group of committed supporters and local businesses. This year the growers' days hosted the richest fashion on the turf in Queensland, with prizes worth \$20,000. It included Australia's richest race day hat competition, valued at \$5,000. There were other prizes on offer, like the \$10,000 kids bonanza, a \$12,000 Calcutta and thousands more in punter's podium prizes on the day.

The special guest for the race day this year was a former Ayr boy, Ryan Phelan. Ryan is one of Australia's most respected racing commentators and a top tipster.

The main event of the day on the track, the Burdekin Cup, was won by a local horse, Inigo Storm, at double figure odds. This result proved popular with the large local crowd and the trainer, Alan Jones. I did not have a chance to back the horse because I was doing other things.

Another part of the growers' race day is the \$10,000 fruit and vegie giveaway. Local growers make produce available for everyone. Produce such as eggplant, rock melons, capsicum, honeydew, corn and a variety of fruits are available for everyone to take home.

The day did not finish after the races, but carried on late into the night with the appearance of the king of rock, Elvis—impersonator Allen McDonald. He supplied entertainment and along with the other entertainers, the Barramundi Brothers, helped the crowd party into the night.

I recommend that all members make the effort to attend the growers' race day in the Burdekin next year. It is the best social race day in the north. I also extend an invitation to the Minister for Tourism and Racing to attend. I recommend this race day to everyone.

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