



Speech by

STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Hansard 7 August 2001

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION

Mr RODGERS (Burdekin—ALP) (7.01 p.m.): Tonight I wish to mention the Centenary of Federation celebrations that were held in the Burdekin from 30 July to 5 August last week. The Centenary of Federation celebrations and events program over the week included a Burdekin panorama at the Burdekin library in Ayr, which highlighted a visual panorama of historic photographs and family history, including displays by local interest groups.

There was also a musical morning tea at the memorial hall in Home Hill. This function recognised the valuable input of our senior citizens and disabled members to the community. I was unable to attend the function but was informed by Mayor John Woods that this was a fun-packed morning tea and everybody in attendance enjoyed it.

I had the pleasure also of attending the Centenary of Federation ball in Giru. People from throughout the area came in various costumes depicting different eras throughout the century. But the night was abruptly disrupted when Ned Kelly and his gang burst in and robbed everyone in the hall. The highlight of that part, though, was that his mother, who was also there, gave chase, hitting him over the head with an umbrella and taking his takings and giving them to charity.

Last Saturday, I also attended the Youth Motorama at the Brandon raceway with my son Matthew. The guest on that day was motor sports identity Dick Johnson. He was very popular, signing autographs and mixing with spectators and competitors. The highlight of the day for my son was the burnout competition—smoke and rubber everywhere. That seems to be what young people like today. It is okay, as long as it stays on the track.

There was also a gala musical production at the Burdekin theatre in Ayr. This featured music, song and dance from a cavalcade of popular musicals from throughout the century, plus a few comedy skits. This was a great production that my wife, my children and myself and all those attending enjoyed.

I also had the pleasure of announcing the Centenary of Federation winners of the Ayr surf-lifesaving club's youth mural competition, which depicted the theme A Snapshot of a Nation, to be highlighted on the surf boat. The junior winner was Sally Ahern. Sally said that her mural told the story of the Australian nation. The senior winner was a joint mural by Amaya Danello and Lisa Foster. They said that their design involved a number of concepts which expressed aspects of Australia as a nation and the Burdekin. These murals will be preserved on the club's new surf boat. People around the state and Australia will get to see these murals as the Ayr surf-lifesaving club and its crew take the boat to victory in many a competition.
