



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 17 September 2002

MULTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA; KAWANA ELECTORATE

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (12.25 p.m.): Last Sunday, 15 September, I, along with thousands of other Sunshine Coast residents and visitors, had enormous pleasure in participating in the second Multicultural Extravaganza held within my electorate at the Sunshine Coast University. Aunty Eve Fiesal—and I apologise if I have the spelling wrong—an Aboriginal elder, assisted with the traditional welcome, along with our local indigenous dancers who are absolutely marvellous and were very well appreciated. I must commend Marion Frederick and her team for coordinating the day.

The main aim of the Multicultural Extravaganza is to bring together the local community, government organisations and young people in an event which recognises and respects the cultural diversity of the people of the area and promotes tolerance and understanding of that diversity. It provides an opportunity to celebrate both our differences and our commonalities. Thousands of community members of many different cultures took part in the festivities in a number of ways. A large stage featured continuous entertainment from song and dance groups performing to the traditional music of their native lands, while roving musicians played at various locations on the site. Many of these groups were happy to teach visitors to the extravaganza some traditional dances. I can assure honourable members that fabulous food from many countries was on sale throughout the day.

The extravaganza is a practical demonstration of the way people from many cultures can work together to produce an exciting and diverse day of festivities for our local community. The event has been sponsored by both government bodies and private enterprise on the Sunshine Coast. Multi Affairs Queensland, Education Queensland, the University of the Sunshine Coast and the Italian Consulate all contributed to the project, along with the local company Unistyle Developments.

Also, the Australian national road cycling championships were held on the Sunshine Coast last week. Mike Victor, the president of Cycling Australia, heads a marvellous group who again conducted a superb national championships. Events such as these are welcome to the Sunshine Coast as not only do we have the ability to cater for the same but obviously we have the ideal weather conditions and hospitality to match. Tourism Sunshine Coast continues to chase such events in a very positive way.

Benny Pike, a very talented sports journalist and former champion boxer, again compered numerous awards presentations and should be commended. I also wish to mention the great sponsors, CUB, and especially Carlton Mid Strength, which is a top drop. I will do everything I possibly can to ensure that the Sunshine Coast continues to attract quality events which will boost our economy and create jobs.

I know that all members would be well aware that from Sunday, 27 October to Sunday, 3 November the Sunshine Coast celebrates the 20th Noosa Triathlon. The event's partner is Queensland Events. Garth Proud from United Sports Marketing does a first class job, is very well appreciated and should be commended. I encourage all members to come to the Sunshine Coast for this incredible event.

On 24 August, I had the honour of representing the Beattie Labor Government at the blessing and opening of stage 1 of the Siena Catholic Primary School—again within my electorate on the Sunshine Coast. The Most Reverend John Bathersby, Archbishop of Brisbane, was present, along with David Hutton, executive director of Brisbane Catholic Education. They are both obviously proud of the job that Peter Dolan, our principal, is doing. I know that many parents highly praise both Peter from Siena Primary and Brian Baker, the principal of Siena Secondary School. Both are great assets to our community and I am committed to assisting wherever I can—not only these schools but all schools within my electorate.

Congratulations must go to Father Joe Duffy, Mark Farrell, chair of the steering committee, and indeed the entire Catholic community for ensuring that more quality education facilities are available on the Sunshine Coast. I seek leave to table the relevant documents.

Leave granted.

Mr CUMMINS: The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia has a positive, helpful and well-appreciated sub-branch on the Sunshine Coast. On Sunday, 18 August I attended the Vietnam Veterans memorial service at the Cotton Tree cenotaph. All veterans, along with the general public who attended this moving ceremony, should be commended. I must also compliment the Buderim Community Concert Band, a dedicated group who are an extremely valuable asset to the community—and I know that they are appreciated as such—who played on the day. The assembly included the parade marshalls, Trevor Hagan OAM and Laurie Drinkwater. The welcome was given by the Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia President, Ted Robinson, and the opening prayer done by Reverend John Barfoot. The Senior Vice-President, Paul Gallagher, introduced the guest speaker, fellow member of this House, Peter Wellington, who did a great job.

Last Thursday, 12 September I had the pleasure of opening the Mountain Creek Primary School sandpit. That sandpit was funded through the Gaming Community Benefit Fund, and it is greatly appreciated by my community.

Time expired.