



Speech by

**DIANNE REILLY**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Hansard 9 April 2002

**MUDGEERABA HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

**Mrs REILLY** (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (7.17 p.m.): Mudgeeraba is a community which is continuously celebrating and reinventing itself, sometimes just to have a reason to celebrate. Seeking to repeat the success of last year's heritage festival while considering new ideas to spark up the township's annual event, the Mudgeeraba Community Association has gone mad—pumpkin mad that is!

Mudgeeraba has been preparing over the past few months for a day of pumpkin madness. On Saturday, 11 May it will hold the first ever Mad Pumpkin Party. Cooked up by the association's effervescent treasurer, Earl Hinschen, the Mudgeeraba Mad Pumpkin Party will be a community festival like no other. I take this opportunity to invite all my fellow members to come along and join in the fun at the Mudgeeraba showgrounds next month. I can see that many of them already look like they would like to participate.

**Mr Springborg:** You wear a pumpkin mask.

**Mrs REILLY:** You could wear a pumpkin mask. Just wait—there is more. This community association has always sought to promote Mudgeeraba, local business and local tourism while celebrating its unique heritage. The Mad Pumpkin Party is just another way to promote the local area and to provide a safe, fun place for children, adults and families to come together and have a good time.

This event is shaping up to be a great success. It already has great support from schools and youth and community groups and so far is enjoying great support in the community. In fact, everyone in Mudgeeraba is talking about pumpkins. A recipe book including over 100 recipes submitted by local residents is being printed and some 400 entries were received in the Name the Pumpkin Mascot competition. So, if members attend the Mudgeeraba Pumpkin Party they will see Percy the Pumpkin.

On the day there will be an art competition and a cooking contest. One can come dressed as one's favourite vegetable or garden character. There is a Cinderella contest, a Prince Charming contest and even an Ugly Sisters contest. I will be judging rather than entering these competitions. Hopefully, I will also be judging some of the pumpkin olympics events which will include seed spitting, a contest I definitely will not be entering. There will be a picnic concert, a bush band, a jack-o'-lantern parade and a jack-o'-lantern bush ball. It will be great fun; I cannot wait. I will take my mother and my little boy; I cannot think of a better way to spend the day before Mother's Day. I congratulate Earl and the Mudgeeraba Community Association. Both the past and the present executive of this group have put their energies into this innovative, interesting and unusual event and everyone associated with it deserves to be congratulated. I am sure it will be a great success and I certainly hope that after midnight at the end of the ball we do not all turn into pumpkins.