



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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CAMP KANGA

Ms JARRATT (Whitsunday—ALP) (12.07 a.m.): Last week I had the opportunity to learn more about the fabulous work undertaken by members of the local Lions Club of the 201Q2 district, which encompasses an area between New Guinea in the north and south to Sarina. In 1989, following the construction of the Peter Faust Dam near Proserpine, local Lions Clubs banded together to create Camp Kanga. Accommodation and service facility dongas left over from the dam construction camp were purchased by the Lions Clubs and slowly converted into a multipurpose retreat that has been used and enjoyed by many school groups, international youth exchange groups, club members and visitors alike.

Camp Kanga is located on an 11-acre property that boasts modest but comfortable sleeping quarters, a huge dining and recreation hall and a generous outdoor area that includes a swimming hole in the creek. The one thing that Camp Kanga lacked was suitable ablution blocks. The old toilet and shower facilities lacked privacy and were, frankly, just a little tatty. The chairman of the Lions Executive Committee of Camp Kanga, Warren Hansen, and his committee had a vision for a better future, and they organised an application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the hope of securing funds to support the construction of two new ablution blocks. To its great satisfaction, the group was successful in its application and received funding of \$30,000 to assist with the construction of two new concrete block facilities that house shower, toilet and changing facilities.

Importantly, the new facilities were constructed to allow wheelchair access between the ablution blocks and the accommodation units. I was very pleased to recently have an opportunity to see for myself the progress being made on the construction of the new ablution blocks. I have to say that I was very impressed with the quality of the new facilities. I have already mentioned that \$30,000 of funding came through a successful application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund—

Mr Schwarten: You're a strong supporter of that fund.

Ms JARRATT: I am indeed a strong supporter of that wonderful fund. I should add that the Lions Club itself raised \$60,000, which is no small feat. District Lions Clubs further contribute to the concept of Camp Kanga through an adopt a cabin scheme in which specific clubs take responsibility for furnishing and the upkeep of an accommodation unit, which in turn contributes to the overall comfort of visitors to the complex.

I have mentioned that Camp Kanga is popular with a whole range of patrons visiting the facility, but it is important to note that being very near the Peter Faust Dam the site is well patronised by school groups, visiting Lions Club members, youth groups, church groups and groups that book the facility for training and convention purposes. However, one of the more significant visitor groups to Camp Kanga is the annual group of 40 to 50 Lions international youth exchange visitors who come from across the world to experience the hospitality of the district's Lions Clubs and the wonderful Whitsundays. During their visit to Camp Kanga the youth exchange visitors are treated to experiences as diverse as abseiling, snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef and mingling with the locals in Airlie Beach and Proserpine. Not only is this a great experience for the young people, I know that the locals who assist with the program get a real buzz out of showing international visitors the riches that we have to offer in the Whitsundays.