



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE



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APEX MULLET FESTIVAL 2003

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.20 a.m.): On Saturday I was delighted to officially open the 2003 Apex Mullet Festival, one of the single biggest events on the Bribie Island social calendar. It is an event where the community and nonprofit groups are encouraged to get together, raise money and awareness and have fun. And what a success it was!

Apex members have been running the festival since 1985, and it has been well received by businesses, locals and visitors alike. The members decided to reintroduce the festival queen and charity queen competition this year, which gave seven local young women an opportunity to participate in raising funds for causes they believed were worth while supporting. Unfortunately there could be only one festival queen and one charity queen, which is a pity as all of the entrants were enthusiastic, capable, confident young women. I was very proud to have met them all. The judging was so close that we had to call the contestants back in order to help make up our minds.

I want to congratulate all of the contestants—Emma Ausburn, Laura Masters, Angela Bell, Kate Lawrence, Amanda Watson, Cherie Langley and Haley Faithful—and really hope they enter again next year. Together the girls raised about \$14,000, which is an incredible achievement in five weeks. Miss Angela Bell was crowned Miss Festival Queen and Miss Laura Masters was crowned Miss Charity Queen. Angela is an apprentice hairdresser and was nominated by her employers. I am told that they are very proud of her achievement, as is her family. Laura, a year 11 student at St Columban's, who was encouraged to enter by her mum, Marilyn, raised almost \$4,400. Laura nominated Senior Sergeant Perry Irwin's family as the beneficiary. Members will recall that Perry was killed in the line of duty on 22 August and is sadly missed by the entire community.

It was an honour to open the festival again. I have always been a keen supporter of Apex and am proud of the good work it does in the community. I was told, though, that this year I had to come dressed in the true spirit of the festival—either a mermaid or a mullet. Of course I chose the former, and I thank Island Promotions for its assistance in outfitting me.

The community came together to assist Apex, and I pay tribute to the businesses on the island. All festival queen contestants stated that every business they approached offered assistance in raising money for good causes. I also commend the efforts of Bribie Island Surf Life Saving Club members Jimmy Chandler, Michael Hoogwaerts, Trent Brennan, Joe Williamson, Mark Radenovic, Nev Roberts and Michael O'Reilly for helping during the entire festival. All day they peeled onions, sliced tomatoes, chopped lettuce and slaved over a hot barbecue, cooking snags and steaks for a vast hungry crowd.

My thanks also go to all of the groups who participated in the festival parade. It simply gets bigger and better every year and the crowds are truly appreciative of the work that goes into it. The Toorbul Rural Fire Brigade and the local SES were also on hand. I must congratulate the two major sponsors—Cornett's IGA and Bribie Island RSL. The RSL's contribution paid for the ending to the festival, which was a fireworks display supervised by the very capable Kym Wilson and team.

Lastly, I congratulate and thank the Apex Club of Bribie Island. The community is grateful to members Lu-Lu Drew, Megan Sinclair, Ken Frey, Daniel Frey, Mal Milverton, Donny Ward, Joshua Clare, Chris Conroy and Niel Machin, ably assisted by their families, for taking the time and the effort to make the 2003 Mullet Festival a truly memorable event.