



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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EVENTS, CALLIDE ELECTORATE

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.39 a.m.): Last weekend I attended the Gin Gin show, which is the last of the shows to be held as part of the show circuit in my electorate. There are 13 shows throughout the communities in the electorate of Callide and they have all been very successful shows this year. The Gin Gin show was the last.

All of the show societies are staffed by bands of very dedicated and committed volunteers—people who give of their own time and in many cases give of their own resources in not inconsequential amounts to make sure that they do have a successful show in their particular communities. Show societies, like so many other community organisations, have had to battle with the problem of public liability insurance. It is great to see that they have been able to overcome that problem and continue to put on the local show in those 13 communities across the Callide electorate. I wonder whether any other members in this House have within their electorates 13 communities which could put on a very successful annual show—put on by volunteers—that provides an excellent opportunity for the community to come together and to celebrate all that is good about living in places like Murgon, Goomeri, Gayndah, Monto, Eidsvold, Biloela, Thangool and all of those other great communities that make up the Callide electorate.

Also this weekend four festivals will be staged in the Callide. The Gayndah Orange Festival is on the long weekend. The Murgon Dairy Festival and the Dillalah Horse Festival are also on. They are also great community events. Like the show movement, they are organised and put on by dedicated bands of volunteers.

Perhaps the festival that is gaining the best reputation in the Callide electorate is the Goomeri Pumpkin Festival, which was on last weekend. Some 12,000 people descended on the small town of Goomeri. I can assure honourable members that there was a heck of a crowd there to see and witness the great Australian pumpkin roll, which is held behind the police station in Goomeri at a place called Policeman's Hill. It is a great event. It is wonderful to see how a small community can take an event such as that and turn it into a festival that can attract such a large number of people from right across the state.

Also held within my electorate is another great event called the Kilkivan Horse Ride, which was unfortunately postponed this year due to rain. However, it is to be rescheduled for later in the year.