



Speech by

Mike Horan

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard Thursday, 19 August 2004

DARLING DOWNS SCHOOL SPORT

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (5.57 p.m.): Just this month Darling Downs School Sport celebrated 25 years of sport for primary and secondary schoolchildren in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. It has been a magnificent achievement and I would like to recognise some of the people who have given so much of their life and their professional knowledge to see that the young people of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs had every opportunity to participate in sport, to compete in sport and for many of them to move on to elite sport at junior and senior levels.

The first committee meeting of Darling Downs School Sport was held on 30 June 1979. Those in attendance from the primary schools were Graham Somerfield, Noel Stephenson, Ian Dumigan, Terry McNelly, Linda Hass and Betty King. From the secondary schools there was Ray Mullins, Wayne Brandon, Ross Matthews-Fredericks, Allan Edwards, Ray Pendrigh, and Jim Voght, who at the time was the school sport officer. Also there was Geoff Horibrook from the Queensland Sport Council and Frank Killoran of the Queensland Sport Council.

Throughout the years there have been a number of regional sports officers who have made a major contribution. I would like to recognise Jim Voght, the original sports officer, John Dixon, Betty King, Dave Hazzard and the current sports officer, Wayne Beeston, who has served loyally and well since 1996.

I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* the list of some 61 young Australians who have come through the ranks of Darling Downs School Sport and have made it to senior level for Australia, be that at the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, in World Cup test matches or in various other major international sports events.

Mr Reeves: There are some good names amongst them.

Mr HORAN: There certainly are.

Leave granted.

Queensland Government

Department of Education

Darling Downs School Sport Board 25th Anniversary Celebrations

AUSTRALIAN REPS—SENIOR

Alderman, Brett (Harristown SHS)—Volleyball, Olympics

Anlezark, Justin (Blackbutt SS)—Track & Field, Olympics

Ashley, Vernon (Toowoomba Grammar)—Paralympian 1989

Bell, Karen (Pilton SS)—Equestrian, World Cup Championships

Brennan, Michael (Our Lady of Lourdes & Toowoomba SHS)—Hockey, Olympics

Brown, Donna (Quinalow SS, Pittsworth SHS)—Basketball, Olympics

Brown, Hope—Hockey

Bodimeade, Lee (Warwick SHS)—Hockey, Olympics

Butler, Dean (Warwick SHS)—Hockey, Commonwealth Games
Cuddihy, Tim (Middle Ridge SS)—Archery, Olympics
Edwards, Melissa (Harristown SHS)—Softball, Queensland
Elvery, Nathan (Cent Heights SHS)—Futsal
Faulkner, Suzie—Hockey, Olympics
Freeman, Cathy (Fairholme College)—Track & Field, Olympics
Garard, Brendan (Toowoomba Grammar)—Hockey, Olympics
Gitsham, Adam (Pittsworth SHS)—Shooting, Olympics
Gleeson, Matt (St Mary's College)—Polo Crosse
Gordon, Ken (Pittsworth SHS)—Track & Field, Commonwealth Games
Grinham, Rachael (Cent Heights SHS)—Squash, Commonwealth Games
Grinham, Natalie (Cent Heights SHS)—Squash, Commonwealth Games
Gurski, Troy (St Mary's College)—Indoor Cricket
Harch, Lana (Lockyer District SHS)—Soccer
Head, Tony (Harristown SHS)—AWD Cricket, Athletics, Volleyball
Hepple, Liz (Fairholme College)—Cycling, Olympics
Hohn, Mark (Pittsworth SHS)—Rugby League
Hohnke, Olivia (Toowoomba SHS)—Soccer, Olympics
Horan, Tim (Toowoomba East SS)—Rugby Union, World Cup
Hudson, Nikki (Cent Heights SHS)—Hockey, Olympics
Irving, Nicole (Glennie School)—Swimming, Commonwealth Games
Jones, Genaint (Harristown SHS)—Cricket, England
Kratzmann, Mark (Toowoomba East SS)—Tennis
Lange, Darren (Wilsonton SS & Tmba SHS)—Swimming, Olympics
Leicht, Anthony (St Mary's)—Basketball (National Umpire)
Lietsch, Danielle (Fairholme College)—Synchronised Swimming, Olympics
Little, Jason (Toowoomba Grammar)—Rugby Union
Love, Martin (Toowoomba Grammar)—Cricket
Marsh, Damien (Goondiwindi SHS)—Athletics, Commonwealth Games
Murray, Mark (Pittsworth SHS)—Rugby League
O'Davis, Robbie (Cent Heights SHS)—Rugby League
O'Neil, Nathan (Toowoomba Grammar)—Cycling, Olympics
Pearce, Karen (Harristown SHS)—Golf
Pearce, Craig (Toowoomba East SS)—Touch Football, World Cup
Price, Steven (Harristown SHS)—Rugby League
Reuter, Karla (Toowoomba SHS)—Soccer, Olympics
Rillie, John (Harristown SHS)—Basketball, Olympics
Ritchie, Greg (Toowoomba SHS)—Cricket
Saunders, Glynis (Middle Ridge SS)—Track & Field, Olympics
Schloss, Michael (Harristown SHS)—Volleyball, Referee Olympics
Schloss, Janet (Harristown SHS)—Volleyball
Seccombe, Wade (Toowoomba Grammar)—Cricket
Shearer, Dale (Warwick SHS)—Rugby League, World Cup
Skirving, Angie (Glennie School)—Hockey, Olympics
Smith, Karen (Wilsonton SS & Tmba SHS)—Hockey, Olympics
Stewart, Darren (Toowoomba East SS)—Swimming, Commonwealth Games
Suey, Nicky (Toowoomba SHS)—Touch Football
Turvey, Claire (Glennie School)—Shooting, Commonwealth Games
Young, Scott (Toowoomba Grammar)—Rugby Union Referee
Wade, Troy (Warwick SHS)—Polo Crosse, World Cup
Wade, Karl (Warwick SHS)—Polo Crosse, World Cup
Ward, Neil (Toowoomba SHS)—Touch Football, World Cup
Webke, Shane (Leyburn SS)—Rugby League

Mr HORAN: A lot of thanks are owed to a lot of people: to the various committees, to the various teachers and principals of the schools that have been involved over the 25 years and particularly to all of the volunteers—they are mostly teachers—to those who have helped with coaching and administration and to those people over the years who have acted as billets. We no longer have the system of billeting, but over many years thousands of people have provided accommodation, either on the Darling Downs or in other regions of Queensland, to enable these young children to compete in various parts of the state.

I believe that sport is one of the most important things for our young people. It teaches them so much. It teaches them so much about the enjoyment of life, about teamwork, about discipline and about commitment. It teaches them about humility in winning and graciousness in defeat. It is probably one of the best preparations for life. If there is anything we as a parliament can do to help people in their sporting endeavours and to help all of these volunteers and teachers to maintain a strong sporting feeling amongst our schools and our young people, we should do it because it is for the good of our young people.