



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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SURFERS PARADISE BRASS BAND; MAGIC MILLIONS RACING CARNIVAL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (9.12 pm): I would like to take the opportunity this evening to express my gratitude to the past and newly elected committee and members of the Surfers Paradise Brass Band. Earlier this month at the group's 18th annual general meeting I was proud to be made a patron once again, along with the Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council, Ron Clarke, Councillor Susie Douglas, and my predecessor as member for Surfers Paradise, Lex Bell.

The Surfers Paradise Brass Band has established itself as an icon of our area, regularly delighting audiences at local eisteddfods and community performances. Last year the band won the regional band contest and was placed third in the state competition. I would suggest that it is not the accolades that this group has to its name that it is most proud of. As noted by the immediate past president, Paul Radford, the success of their band, and any brass band, relies heavily on the ability to develop junior players into competent musicians. The Surfers Paradise Brass Band effectively does this through its Training (No 2) Band. Week in, week out this group invests time and effort into developing young aspiring Gold Coasters into notable brass musicians. It is a nurturing atmosphere and an atmosphere indicative of the electorate—an atmosphere that is not always highlighted as existing on the Gold Coast.

An integral part of this group that I would like to acknowledge are the parents, friends and other supporters of the band. These are the people who bring cakes, slices and drinks to the rehearsals, sell tickets for their concerts, run raffles and are at the front of every one of the band's performances. This support network is something that makes not just this group stronger but also the greater community.

I would like to formally congratulate the outgoing committee on a great year. I say congratulations to Paul Radford, Sarah Stephensen, Alan Trueman, the conductor who says this is going to be his last year, Kim Bitossi and the committee. It is a time consuming job and their efforts over the last year should not go unrecognised. I say congratulations, too, to Gordon Richmond and the newly elected committee. I would like to wish the Surfers Paradise Brass Band all the best in achieving their goals for 2006 and winning their grade at the upcoming nationals in Brisbane.

On another matter, I would like to congratulate those involved in the coordination of one of the biggest events on the Gold Coast annual calendar. The recent Magic Millions Racing Carnival, held at the Gold Coast equestrian facility, brought the nation's eyes to our area once again. Speaking about the final day of racing, the Gold Coast Turf Club's chairman, Bill Millican, understandably ecstatic with the event and the patron turnout, said, 'Many came to see, and just as many came to be seen. But either way, the 18,000-plus crowd shows just why the Magic Millions is clearly Queensland's premier day of racing.'

Mr Reeves: Peter Lawlor did a great job down there.

Mr LANGBROEK: Peter Lawlor, the member for Southport, is a great member of the committee. My assistant electorate officer has told me that many of his friends who have moved interstate to work come back to the Gold Coast for the carnival each year. It is a great thing to be affiliated with the carnival and the most progressive regional race club in the country. I am a firm believer that this success, along with the strong administration of the club, comes down to the facility being located in a centralised and accessible area of the Gold Coast.