



Speech by

Michael Choi

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

REDLAND SHIRE COUNCIL WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARDS

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (12.16 am): I rise to put on record an excellent initiative of the Redland Shire Council, the inaugural Redland Shire Council World Environment Day Awards, which were held in a facility in my electorate called IndigiScapes. For the information of the House, I point out that the Redlands IndigiScapes Centre is the perfect place for all age groups to get back to nature. Visitors can walk along over a kilometre of bush trails and through demonstration gardens which show native plants and how to use them in landscaped areas. They can also attend workshops and spotlight tours at night. Those walks are guided walks during which people can buy plants and seek advice on gardening or nature conservation. Displays, workshops and events are also regular features at the centre. The centre provides a wealth of local flora and fauna. It also offers a wide range of monthly activities, including workshops, children's activities and a school program.

The awards have been set up as an IndigiScapes initiative to celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June. The focus was to recognise outstanding environmental neighbours in our community. Nominations were sought from the Redlands community in four categories: business, residential, schools and individual. Each award had set criteria and the judging was based on that criteria. The judging panel consisted of five members which included the Mayor, Don Secombe, and the honourable member for Redlands, John English.

The business category award is given to a business that has demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in environmental initiatives in business operation, staff activities or customer incentives. The Good Guys Discount Warehouse Capalaba won that award. The Good Guys showed initiative in partnering both the state and the council in sustainability programs that demonstrated benefits for both the environment and the community. The individual category award is given to an individual or a family that has demonstrated outstanding achievement and involvement in the environmental community initiatives, such as Clean Up Australia Day. The winner of that award was Narelle Renn.

The residential category award is given to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding achievement in environmental initiatives in their residence or property. The winner of that award was Bart van Beukering. Lastly, but most interestingly, the school category award is given to a school for outstanding achievement in environmental initiatives. The winner was the Coolnwynpin State School. This award was received by the students and teachers of years 3 and 4. The environmental club at that school has been operating for over 17 years and has taken an active role not only in preserving and maintaining the environment but also in encouraging the students, staff and community to help care for the environment.

Time expired.