



Speech by

Evan Moorhead

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

BEENLEIGH CANE FESTIVAL

Mr MOORHEAD (Waterford—ALP) (12.12 am): I would like to use this opportunity to recognise the hard work of the Beenleigh Rotary Club, particularly John and Di Crawford, for another successful Beenleigh Cane Festival. The Beenleigh Cane Festival is not only a celebration of Beenleigh and its heritage but a massive fundraising effort by Rotary to support local charities.

On Saturday, 2 June the annual cane parade made its way through the streets of Beenleigh to the Beenleigh Showgrounds. Hundreds gathered in Beenleigh to see the parade, with many great contingents including the Willman family—as always—the Beenleigh Primary School, Beenleigh State High School and St Josephs of Tobruk Memorial School.

The culmination of the Beenleigh Cane Festival is the Beenleigh Cane Quest and the crowning of the Beenleigh and Districts Cane Queen. Cane Queen entrants and their sponsors spend six months working hard to raise funds for local charities. This year's quest had five extraordinary entrants who worked very hard. This year's entrants were Deanne Page, sponsored by Noel and Sam Camilleri from the Music Cavern; Elle Tait, sponsored by the Beenleigh PCYC and the Beenleigh Sports Club; Kerri Balaba, sponsored by Woodlands Delfin; Emma Valiance, sponsored by the Beenleigh branch of the National Australia Bank; and Nicole White, sponsored by the Beenleigh Bowls Club.

I attended the Cane Festival launch in February this year and met the five entrants. Across the various events between then and the awards dinner on Saturday, I have seen the confidence of these young women grow. At this year's Cane Quest dinner Elle Tait was successful in taking out both the Cane Queen and Charity Queen titles, with Nicole White taking out the Charity Queen runner-up title. All of the entrants were very impressive young women who are a credit to their sponsors and to Beenleigh and surrounding districts. I am sure they all have bigger and brighter things ahead in their lives and careers.

Importantly, the Cane Quest raised \$54,638 for local community service organisations. Particular recognition must go to Elle Tait, the Beenleigh Sports Club and the Beenleigh PCYC on raising \$25,701. There are a number of people who must be recognised for their tireless efforts in the Cane Quest. John and Di Crawford have worked tirelessly year after year to be the driving force for the Cane Quest and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. This year John and Di were ably assisted by local Rotary President Martin Corbley, Sam Camilleri and her husband Noel and many more. I also wish to recognise the sponsors of the Cane Quest for their contribution. The support of Woodlands Delfin, the Beenleigh Bowls Club, Quest Newspapers, the Beenleigh Marketplace and WorkDirections was invaluable.

The weekend of the Cane Festival was made complete with the annual Opera in the Canefields held at the Heck Homestead at the Rocky Point Mill. The Canterbury College Cantabile Choir was amazing as always and held its own in performing side by side with the Queensland Opera. Given that the Queensland Opera are performing I know that the member for Yeerongpilly, as the most cultured member in this House, will be joining me there next year.