



Speech by

**Jack Dempsey**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG**

Hansard Thursday, 24 May 2007

---

## **RELAY FOR LIFE; WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW**

**Mr DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—NPA) (6.20 pm): There is an old saying that charity begins at home and that is certainly true in Bundaberg where community organisations are the lifeblood of the day-to-day life of this very proud and self-reliant city. The newly named Cancer Council Queensland was recently the beneficiary of approximately \$90,000, being proceeds of Bundaberg's fourth annual Relay for Life, which was a wonderful community event.

I had the privilege of participating in the event with a team that included my wife Christine and our five children. It was an amazing experience for all who participated. The event ran like clockwork under the direction of tireless Chairperson Lorraine Tyson and Project Officer Avis Hartle.

The day was truly inspiring as cancer survivors, led by relay chairperson and prominent Bundaberg identity Gary Kirk, who had cancer surgery just last December, led the Survivors Walk to start the 18-hour event. The Candlelight Ceremony was also a fitting tribute to those who have lost their battle with the disease or who are still fighting.

The great community spirit among the 1,000-plus attendees, which included team members, committee and volunteers, was overwhelming. Community members attended for all different reasons and emotions, but the most important fact was that they were together as one.

Former 2002 Queensland Nurse of the Year charity winner Lorraine Tyson is a very well-known face in the city, both from her position with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and the many community groups she has championed over the years. Bundaberg has recently become the ninth site in Queensland to offer plasma donations and Lorraine and her team have been extra-busy. Every blood donation centre has remarkable staff and volunteers like Lorraine and I urge all politicians to join in the Prick a Pollie Challenge as part of World Blood Donor Day on 14 June.

Another great charity event in Bundaberg this year is the 2007 Wide Bay Australia International Airshow, which will run from 3 to 5 August. This is a world-class event and I invite all members to attend and support this event, which will showcase the best Australia and Bundaberg have to offer in the aviation field.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia and the Leukaemia Foundation are the main beneficiaries for this event. I was also lucky enough to attend the launch of the Leukaemia Airshow Challenge when 17 committed entrants put up their hands to be ambassadors for this exciting event to raise much-needed money in the fight against this disease, which affects many Queenslanders. Entrants in their stunning Airshow Challenge uniforms were presented to the public and sponsors, under the watchful eye of challenge coordinator Pat Hooper, another long-time servant for a number of charitable and community organizations. Winners will be announced at a Charity Airshow Gala. I congratulate all entrants and their families for their commitment to this great cause.

Events such as Relay for Life and the Wide Bay Australia International Airshow are very much the lifeblood of the Bundaberg community. We owe the people who organize and volunteer their time a debt of gratitude.