



Speech by

Jack Dempsey

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

2007 BUNDABERG YOUTH EISTEDDFOD GALA CONCERT

Mr DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—NPA) (10.21 pm): I recently had the privilege of attending the 2007 Bundaberg Youth Eisteddfod Gala Concert and I could only again marvel at the abundance of superb young talent that we have in Bundaberg. One of the most successful competitors was Jack McGovern, who won a string of major awards, displaying his great skill and energy across a diverse range of sections. His achievements followed closely on qualifying for another Rostrum Voice of Youth intermediate state final at Parliamentary House on 30 June 2007. This will also keep him on track for a hat-trick of Australian junior championships. I ask everyone to come along and listen not only to this fine young ambassador for Bundaberg but also to the many other quality finalists.

Jack's elder sister, Caitlin, also performed superbly in the eisteddfod, finishing with a long list of distinctions. The very confident Amity Brand was another outstanding competitor who stood out on stage, claiming an amazing 10 awards in various sections. Sisters Nicole and Jessica Modolo typified the family theme, each with championship victories. Sam Hilton was another popular winner, receiving the encouragement award for the second year in a row. Events such as these are not all about winning but doing one's best, and Sam and the other competitors certainly typify this spirit. A special mention must go to Bundaberg State High School which maintains possession of the shield for best string orchestra, winning it for the 12th time in its 12-year history, under the baton of Christine Buwalda.

The eisteddfod ran over 15 days with variety a feature. In the words of one prominent Bundaberg cultural buff Austen Whitaker, 'From string and brass ensembles, vocal and instrumental solos and duets to prose, verse, mime, duologue, character recital and improvisation, all presented with charisma and youthful exuberance.' Events such as the eisteddfod provide young people with a great experience and help foster a greater cultural experience in the community. Eisteddfod president of 15 years, John Weir, spoke of the eisteddfod's goals to encourage and nurture our gifted youth to increase their abilities in self-expression, public communication, discipline, self-esteem, confidence building and to experience a sense of personal achievement.

An event of this magnitude is not possible without a passionate and hardworking organising committee. Along with John Weir, tireless workers from the community such as Nina Higgins, Jean Mylrea, Carole Franklin, Libby Weir, Wendy Davis, Jan Davis, accompanists Alison O'Malley, Lois Keppel, Barry Davis and compere Nigel Dick, all deserve a great deal of gratitude. There are thousands of hours given by other volunteers, adjudicators, parents, teachers and support groups.

This group of community champions will also form the basis of another committee which will continue to work hard over the next 10 months in the lead-up to next year's heritage state eisteddfod championship and dance championships in April 2008. After this highly successful eisteddfod and the successful recently held 2007 Queensland band championships, Bundaberg is rightly regarded as one of the major arts and music centres in regional Queensland. With such a wealth of talent on hand and Bundaberg's proud record of staging outstanding events, I invite all lovers of the arts to our great city in 2008 for an absolute treat.