



Speech by

Jack Dempsey

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

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SENIORS WEEK

Mr DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—NPA) (5.26 pm): Throughout Queensland, communities are celebrating Seniors Week events. Apart from it being an opportunity for older people to celebrate, it is a time when we all should recognise the major contributions which they have made to this great state over many years. Recently, I had the privilege to attend one of the major items on the Bundaberg Seniors Week calendar, a free intergenerational and multicultural concert at Moncrieff Theatre. The concert at this Bundaberg landmark, which honours late song-bird Gladys Moncrieff, who became known as 'Australia's Queen of Song' and 'Our Glad', also befitted the level of performance by the many sections of the community at this special venue.

This event was coordinated by hardworking community identity and member of the Queensland Seniors Council, Enid Cullen, and long-time champion for the people of Bundaberg, Myra Cullen, kicked off the program with a presentation of incidental organ music. Others to feature included the U3A Accordion Band, led by Jennifer Dimo; the Bundaberg Christian College Drummers; the Italian Choir, conducted by Pat Palu and accompanied by Anne Sheehan; yarn spinner Valerie Brown; and Bundaberg Strings, conducted by Heather McCabe.

Lorraine's Boot Scooters got everyone's toes tapping; Norville Singers, conducted by Tony Merriman with guest singer Judy Hayhoe, performed three eternal favourites; Instrumental Trio or 'Heritage Trio' as they would like to be known, Gavina McLucas, Dorothy Strathdee and Dawn Fricke, took centre stage. This trio liked the name heritage because it represented something very old and valuable. The University of the Third Age singers then brought the curtain down on an inspiring program with a medley of numbers. It was an afternoon which truly brought together so many of the qualities which make Bundaberg a great community.

The other big event on the Bundaberg program was the Seniors Week expo at the civic centre where businesses and community groups and members united to present a morning which included approximately 70 displays covering health issues, social and recreational opportunities, housing services, aged-care facilities and the general promotion of active ageing. These events were hosted by the Bundaberg and District Committee on the Ageing. The expo was coordinated by Thelma Dooley, who has done this job with great efficiency since the inception of the event six years ago.

I would also like to thank tireless servant for the community Nina Higgins, and other committee members, Wendy Francis from the Bundaberg Mature Women's Club, Jean Vane from the Bundaberg and District Senior Citizens Association, Helen Guppy, Enid Cullen, Jane Ford, and Councillor Judy Peters and all valued volunteers who worked hard to ensure a wonderful showcase of entertainment and displays. I congratulate 60s and Better program coordinator Donna Morgan, who has been kept busy with free bring-a-friend classes and the Bundaberg Pensioners League.

To culminate Seniors Week in Bundaberg, members of the U3A will be chasing a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* when they attempt to get 280 people into a heated pool at the same time at the Bundaberg Swim Academy. This is Seniors Week but let us not just provide something special for them this week but continue to do so throughout the year. Each of them has in their own way made Queensland and Australia what it is today and they deserve to be well treated by all sections of the community.