



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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### GOLD COAST, CULTURAL ARTS

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.18 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak this evening about a number of cultural arts events that have been held on the Gold Coast in not only my electorate but other areas as well. The Gold Coast Youth Orchestra did a concert called Bridging the Gap presented by the National Seniors Nerang branch at the Youth Orchestra Centre in Ashmore. It was a fantastic concert where a number of bands highlighted various aspects of the Youth Orchestra—the Little Big Band, the Concert Band, the Chamber Orchestra, the String Orchestra and the Youth Symphony—with some wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers doing a great job showing that the Gold Coast really does have a great arts scene.

One aspect that the Youth Orchestra finds very difficult is that it has a rehearsal hall at Ashmore that is not suitable for concerts, but it finds the Gold Coast Arts Centre a very big venue. Whilst the Youth Orchestra wants to give people the experience of being in a better venue, if it uses the Gold Coast Arts Centre it becomes prohibitively expensive. So something that I have brought up on the Gold Coast in the past couple of weeks is the necessity for theatres and other performing centres that may not have the seating capacity of the Gold Coast Arts Centre to be considered for the Gold Coast as well as a need for a museum and an art gallery.

I also attended the Gold Coast Secondary Schools' Drama Festival, which was held at Upper Coomera State College. It was great to see kids from different schools represented—state high schools as well as Catholic schools and independent schools. It was great to see people from all ages—from juniors through to seniors and intermediates—represented there.

The other event that I attended recently—and I think the honourable member for Broadwater and the honourable member for Southport were also there and it is an event that we have been to a number of times in the past couple of years—was the Gold Coast Speech Contest Celebrating Languages at Griffith University. This contest is organised by Dr Leigh Kirwan. In 2007, that contest attracted over 5,000 people to Griffith University, including 1,000 competitors from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. This year, 2008, is the United Nations International Year of Languages, and the slogan is 'Languages Matter'. There is a Japanese immersion program, which is going to join other immersion programs at schools throughout Queensland in 2008. Japanese is still by far the most popular language, but there are many other languages taught in schools, such as Spanish, Indonesian, German and French.

We were all there in our capacity as members of parliament presenting these awards. It was great to see these various cultural aspects of life being carried out by youthful Gold Coasters who would obviously appreciate some more venues in which they can present their wares. I will be looking forward to committing to those sorts of initiatives as the minister for arts in a future LNP government.