



Speech by

Chris Foley

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Hansard Thursday, 17 September 2009

MARYBOROUGH TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Mr FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (6.30 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House a fantastic event held in Maryborough called the Maryborough Technology Challenge. It was started in 2002 by a gentleman called Keith Beavis, along with a number of interested people. This event has grown and grown in stature. This year it was great to welcome our major sponsor, the RACQ. Garry Fites, whom I know from my work on the Travelsafe Committee, came up with his wife and their team and they spent the weekend looking around our fantastic city.

This event gets bigger and bigger all the time. I want to give you an idea of the scope of this event and the human-powered vehicles. For those wondering what that is, it is a recumbent bicycle with some extremely fancy frames and fibreglass shells put around them. Some of these can really get along. This is a 24-hour team race. It is fantastic. We have so many teams turning up from pretty much all over Queensland. They set up little booths and there are a lot of people there. I hate to say it, but the kids probably live on V and Red Bull to keep themselves pretty pumped, but it is a brilliant event.

It is not just a human-powered vehicle race. We have CO₂ dragsters, robotics competitions, young inventors awards, the ever-popular Smiley pushcarts, where kids jump into an old-fashioned billycart and push each other up and down at great speed, solar model cars and boats, and a professional cycle race called the Cycle City Challenge Criterium, which has \$4,000 in prizes.

Mr Watt interjected.

Mr FOLEY: Yes. It was actually won by a Bundy rider this year and an older guy, too, which proves that age and stealth can overcome. It was a brilliant event. Nanango, for the third year in a row, took out the HPV 24-hour race in fine style. They are an awesome team that we hope to beat next year.

My own children, as usual, were involved. My baby girl Brittany had a solar-powered boat in there, which was a pretty interesting looking beast to say the least. My daughter Caitlyn was involved in the St Mary's College team. She hit up the old man—who was a soft touch—for a day off on Monday after whizzing around the track with her team for 24 hours. All in all, it was a brilliant event. I invite all members to come up next September for the 2010 Maryborough Technology Challenge. Come up and we will look after you.