



Speech by

Margaret Keech

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Thursday, 4 June 2009

BEENLEIGH AND DISTRICT CANE FESTIVAL

Mrs KEECH (Albert—ALP) (10.32 pm): Last weekend on Saturday, 30 May the streets of Beenleigh were alive with the sound of children's laughter, bagpipes, marching bands and the streets decorated with barrels of sugar cane as we celebrated our traditional cane festival as well as the crowning of the charity and cane queens. I was fortunate to be able to join on the official dais the mayor of the Logan City Council, Councillor Pam Parker; the member for Waterford, Evan Moorhead; the member for Coomera, Michael Crandon; and the member for Forde, Brett Raguse, together with visitors from Rotary clubs in surrounding districts.

Once again it was a terrific parade, with lots of work having been conducted by the Rotary club of Beenleigh. Schools, businesses, ACCESS and community members also joined the parade to ensure it was a great success. After the parade was finished—which took quite a long time—we all went down to the showgrounds to again enjoy the multicultural bands, together with all the other stalls that were at the showgrounds.

The fundraising efforts this year were absolutely incredible and continue the tradition of 45 years of raising much needed funds for our local community groups. Recipients this year of the quest were the Volunteer Marine Rescue at Jacobs Well, Beenleigh PCYC, Beenleigh Together Against Truancy, Beenleigh Region Chaplaincy, Anglicare, Beenleigh Girl Guides and other community organisations.

That evening at the Beenleigh Community Centre we all joined three amazing young women who were the Cane Queen entrants. To Brooke Tyson of Daisy Hill, Krystal Opperman of Ormeau and Amy Lewis of Belivah: you did an absolutely amazing job. The judges, Paul and Christine Stevens, had an incredibly difficult job in deciding on the winners. Congratulations to Brooke Tyson, who became the Cane Queen winner and was also crowned the runner-up Charity Quest Queen, raising \$8,054. The Charity Quest Queen winner was Krystal Opperman, who raised a massive \$10,170, and Amy Lewis did a tremendous job in a very short amount of time raising \$3,925. Funds raised totalled more than \$22,000 and will go to all our organisations.

Thank you very much to Di Crawford and Sue Mulraney, all the members of the Rotary club of Beenleigh—in particular my husband, Peter—and sponsors Hatton Garden Jewellers and Quest Newspapers' *Albert & Logan News*.