



Speech by

Peter Dowling

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard Thursday, 12 November 2009

REDLANDS ELECTORATE

Mr DOWLING (Redlands—LNP) (9.15 pm): What a month! Tonight I rise to share with honourable members some of the events in my community and put on the record my congratulations, best wishes, thanks and gratitude for their respective contributions to our community. Many schools and sporting clubs obviously are into the awards season at the moment, and I have attended a number of the ceremonies. I acknowledge the Redland Bombers AFL Club and the Victoria Point Sharks Sporting Club. They have the Dowling Medal Count—it is no relation to me. It is just coincidental that years ago a Dowling family member settled in the area.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DOWLING: It is a great name. Carmel College held its awards night. Victoria Point State High School had both its awards night and its sports achievement night. All were well attended. It is a really positive thing for the future of our country to see these young people coming up to receive their respective awards.

I was also able to attend numerous community cultural activities such as the Sheldon College Arts Academy, which is a showcase like no other for talented young people. The Calvary Christian College Showcase also displayed an outstanding calibre of talent. I also attended the Sheldon College Celebration of Excellence; the Trefoil Guild official opening, which was also attended by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. JP Langbroek; Redlands on Stage, which was hosted by Redland City mayor, Councillor Melba Hobson, showcasing local talent; and So You Think You Can Perform—the Redland Rhapsody Chorus. Again, that is run by locals to encourage local talent. The Coochiemudlo Island Art Group held its art show displaying a fantastic calibre of work. I also attended the Tingira Boat Club Family Fun Day.

I also congratulate the Uniting Church on achieving 100 years of worship on the same site in Cleveland. I also wish David Cornthwaite a safe journey. He is a Welsh environmental adventurer. He is actually paddling from the source of the Murray River down to the sea. It is a journey of some 2,400 kilometres. I actually joined him for the first 200 kilometres from Bringenbrong down to the wall of the Hume Weir, which is just above Albury for the benefit of those members who are aware of that location. Tonight he is actually in Swan Hill. As I say, I wish him all the best for a safe journey. He currently has paddled 1,100 kilometres. He has a further 1,410 kilometres to go. If members do a Google search of 'the great big paddle', they will find the website and be able to track his journey all the way through.

He is an environmentalist. Paddling with him down the Murray, we went through a transition from a life filled river system with platypus, echidna and kangaroos all around to a dam which I imagine is like what Traveston would have been—a lifeless dam, a big body of water with no life whatsoever in comparison to the flowing river.