



Speech by

Vicky Darling

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard Thursday, 21 May 2009

MARTHEZE, MR F

Ms DARING (Sandgate—ALP) (9.27 pm): Tonight I pay tribute to an outstanding member of my local Sandgate community. Frank Martheze—musician, family man, community friend—passed away recently and his death took us by surprise and has left a huge hole in the heart of our local community. We feel that we were not ready to say goodbye. Frankie was a well-known community identity and he and his wife, Karen, ran Ironwood Cottage in Sandgate, which sells a great range of healthy and organic foods and is very well stocked with gluten-free produce. At Frank's funeral, his son described his father with two simple words—'unconditional love'. I know that description struck a chord with so many at his packed funeral service.

In all my dealings with Frank, I never felt judged by him, I always enjoyed his gentle presence and cheeky outlook on life. Frank was a talented musician and played in various bands at venues all around Australia and the world. Local residents were lucky to see him at regular performances around Sandgate, including at the Bluewater Festival, Music by the Sea and the Unplugged Cafe, which hosts performances of local musos in the Sandgate Community Centre. He performed at my Queensland Week concert at the PCYC last year and was 'pure Frankie', with just his voice and acoustic guitar entertaining us.

On Saturday night, 30 May, family, friends and business owners are banding together to present a concert for Frankie at the Sandgate Town Hall. The program will include 'friends of Frank' and Martheze family members, with Frank's son Troy Martheze making a special guest appearance. The remaining members of three of Frank's popular bands—Stonehouse, Freewheelin' Franklins and Tribute to Santana Project—will be getting together to perform, along with several other acts.

The inaugural Frank Martheze Encouragement Award will be presented by Frank's wife, Karen, and son Ruben to Nashville State School's music coordinator, Julie Shepherd. The trophy and prize money will be awarded annually to the grade 5 student who best demonstrates a genuine passion for their music studies throughout the year.

Sandgate is a vibrant musical, artistic and cultural community, and I pay tribute to all who combine their passion with hard work to produce the festivals, concerts, plays and exhibitions we so love. Finally, I would like to pass on my condolences to Karen and all of Frankie's family and friends. You all know how special Frank was, and I am thankful I was able to share just a very small part of his life. I would normally say 'Rest in peace, Frankie' but I know he has taken his music with him.