




Speech by
Ian Berry

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 1 August 2012

IPSWICH, PARK2PARK FUN RUN

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (8.47 pm): It is with a good deal of pleasure that I talk to this House about an event that occurred last Sunday, 29 July. It started on the Saturday when, in fact, Steve Moneghetti and I helped in the preparation of the Park2Park fun run at the Ipswich athletics oval. A great day was had by all. There were 400 extra people who attended the fun run this year. Monnas and I actually ran together for the first six metres. After that it was just history. I came home in 38 minutes. What was important about this race was the fact that not only did we have an extra 400 people but also there was such a family atmosphere. It was absolutely electric to be there and see Ipswich people participating in such a fun event.

There were many families who attended. People could participate in the five-kilometre, 10-kilometre and half-marathon distance. It was a tough course, but the people of Ipswich and its environs performed admirably. It also brought out some people who continue to contribute to the fabric of Ipswich, people like Tom Yates of the Ipswich Hospital Foundation, Judy and Ashton. I make particular note of Chris Gale of GaleForce who assists in the running clubs in Ipswich. Chris not only set up on the Saturday and was involved in the management of the event on Sunday but also was involved in the taking down on the Sunday.

There also needs to be special mention of my rotary club, the Ipswich City Rotary Club, which provided direction and amusement while I was running around. And, quite frankly, when you are out there running for 38 minutes you need all the amusement you can possibly muster! I would also like to thank all the high schools who participated by providing refreshments as we went around this course, including Ipswich Girls Grammar School. I really appreciate their efforts. They made it entertaining for us to be involved.

I would like to make a particular mention of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, whose members provided me with happy tea. In fact, they asked me to do a television interview for their Taiwanese members. I considered it a privilege to be asked. They made \$5,000 from bottled water and stretched linen caps and hats, all of which went to charity. They gave it to the Heart Foundation. I thank them for that and also for the mammoth contribution they made to Ipswich during the last floods. It was an admirable donation and one which ought to be recognised and I thank them very much for it. A great day was had by all. The Park2Park will continue to grow and be fully supported by the people of Ipswich.