




Speech by

Ian Rickuss

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

COUNTRY RACING

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.14 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate this government on what it is doing for country racing. On the weekend I had the pleasure of the company of Tim Mander and his wife, Gayle, and Kevin Dixon and his wife, Linda, at the Lockyer Race Club in Gatton. I congratulate the government on starting to rebuild country racing after the mob on the other side of the chamber virtually drove it into the ground.

Mr Crisafulli: Decimation.

Mr RICKUSS: Decimation. They drove it into the ground. Next year the Lockyer club will host a stand-alone meeting on 10 June, on the Queen's Birthday long weekend. This will also be a TAB meeting. We hope to promote that meeting and attract big crowds. I will even invite most of the members currently in the chamber to the Lockyer.

Mr Johnson: Will you give them punting money?

Mr RICKUSS: I will even give them punting money. The member for Gregory has suggested that he is going to help me supply the punting money!

These types of meetings are important in terms of the recognition given to country clubs. At any race meeting in Brisbane, most of the horses have come in from the country areas, where they have developed. The rural areas provide a base for these great horses. We have to have local race clubs to train and develop locally born and bred horses into the great sprinters and stayers that we need to keep the industry in Australia viable. Not only that, these country meetings are great social days. I am sure the new minister would acknowledge that the number of young people at the meeting was just astounding. It was a bit of a wet day, but there was a good smattering of young people. We get a great demographic at our local clubs—from grandfathers right through to 18-year-olds. We had a big line-up of fashions on the field, judged by my wife, Ann, and Tim and his wife, Gayle. It was a very difficult choice because there are some beautiful young ladies in the Lockyer, of course.

Mrs Menkens interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: The outfits were lovely—the fascinators, the hats—

Mr Johnson: You were fascinated by the girls!

Mr RICKUSS: I was fascinated, yes. I had the pleasure of having the microphone, so I could give a bit of a running commentary on how good they were looking. There were some great fashions for the young men, too. Of course, we always have the token bogan in amongst the crowd. They also get a run in the fashions on the field. I again congratulate the government on rebuilding country racing.