




Speech by

Ian Walker

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

MOUNT GRAVATT SHOW

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (9.29 pm): The weekend of 28 and 29 July dawned with beautiful weather and saw the 97th Mount Gravatt Show occur in the electorate of Mansfield. It is a great tradition for our local community. This year approximately 8,000 people came to enjoy the delights of the show. That is a record this year on top of a record last year both in attendances and in relation to the exhibitor entries in the show. Far from being an event which is having its last gasp, it is an event very much alive, well and growing within the Mansfield and Mount Gravatt communities.

A major attraction is the \$2 rides which is great for families within our area. They can come to the Mount Gravatt Show and their children can have rides for \$2. For families who are struggling to go to the RNA show it is a great opportunity for them, just a couple of weeks before the RNA, to take their children in a less expensive atmosphere to enjoy most of the delights of the fair and have a great time. As can be seen from the attendance, many people did just that. There were some old favourites there: the baby show, photography, school displays, equestrian events, cattle, sheep and goats and donkey judging—and all of this within 10 kilometres of the Brisbane GPO. I think it is a tremendous achievement for a suburb like ours to be able to maintain what is effectively a rural show in a city atmosphere.

A government member: Just like a real country show.

Mr WALKER: It is a real country show; it has the real country feeling. If you came along you would feel very much at home there. There is also great cooking, fine arts, quilting and even the odd budgerigar was on display. There is a tremendous array of things for locals to look at. This year the show society added some new and very popular attractions. We had a truck show, stunt bikes, a ute show, a lifestyle exhibition and even sheep dog demonstrations. It was just like the Ekka.

The show is a magnet for our other community groups. We saw our Men's Shed, the Girl Guides, the SES, the Scouts and the Lions Club manage the parking. Everybody gets involved. Our show society deserves great thanks. It was the first show since the death of president Kim Goss' dad, Bob, a legend and a former show society president. The show was a wonderful tribute to Bob. Thanks to vice president Guy McEntyre, treasurer Margaret McEntyre and all the committee, but in particular Len Crook, the long-time secretary of the show. Len had not been well and was just about to retire due to ill health. It was a great tribute to him to see a successful show. We all look forward to the shows to come and, in particular, the 100th show in 2015.