



Speech by


# Jason Costigan

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Hansard Tuesday, 10 July 2012

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## WHITSUNDAY ELECTORATE, SHOWS

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.11 pm): I rise to advise the House of the success of the show circuit in Mackay and the Whitsundays in 2012, with many of my constituents attending one of three shows: the Pioneer Valley Show, the Mackay Show and the Proserpine show, now known as Show Whitsunday. These shows are ingrained in the culture of many local communities in my electorate, with the Pioneer Valley Show, although taking place in the neighbouring electorate of Mirani, always attracting large numbers of people from my electorate of Whitsunday. This year was no different.

This year also marked the 49th anniversary of the Pioneer Valley Show, which I fondly recall as a young child attending by travelling on the train from Mackay's former Boddington Street Railway Station all the way to Finch Hatton in the Upper Pioneer Valley, looking up to the rainforest-clad mountains of the Eungella Range, with the showgrounds backing on to Cattle Creek. I am delighted to say that I attended this year's show with my friend and colleague Ted Malone, the member for Mirani, and it was again a big success, with about 18,000 people coming through the gates. It is little wonder people such as I, a life member of the show society, consider the Pioneer Valley Show the best one-day show in Queensland—perhaps even the nation. I congratulate the show society president, Ashley Fry, and his hardworking committee and I wish them every success for the 2013 show's 50th anniversary. I also congratulate Proserpine grazier Lawson Camm, the grandson of former long-serving Whitsunday MP and former government minister the late Ron Camm, on his success in coming away from the Pioneer Valley Show with a couple of major prizes—that of grand champion and supreme exhibit.

Owing to the fact that parliament was sitting, I was unable to attend the Mackay Show this year, but I am reliably informed that that three-day regional show was again a great success. I commend Steve Gavioli, the secretary-manager, and Bryan Loft, the president of the show society, and their team for staging another terrific show.

I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated and tireless work of the Proserpine Show Society, whose committee under the presidency of Tony Large recently successfully staged the 100th Show Whitsunday. What is still known to many in my community as the 'Prossie' show has certainly come a long way from its formative years—a little agricultural show and get-together on a block of dirt where the Uniting Church in Proserpine now stands today. I was very pleased to attend the 2012 show with my federal colleague George Christensen, the member for Dawson, and I pay tribute to those pioneering show organisers whose efforts and contributions in challenging times have given the good people of Proserpine and its district every reason to be excited in the fourth week of June.

Last but not least, I wish to congratulate four constituents of mine who at this year's show were awarded life membership of the Prossie Show Society: Eileen Cameron, Les and Gwen Johns, and Wayne Quantock. These people have made an outstanding contribution over a long time and I was especially delighted to personally present Mrs Cameron with her badge. I also acknowledge Cath Colbourne and Myrtle Evans, who were recognised for their efforts on behalf of St Paul's Anglican parish, whose food stall is arguably the best tuckerbox at the Proserpine show.