



Speech By


Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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ADJOURNMENT

RACQ Maryborough Technology Challenge

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.06 pm): I rise to talk about the 2016 RACQ HPV technology challenge that was conducted in Maryborough last weekend. Some 141 teams went through the CBD of Maryborough. It was a truly tremendous sight. A big thanks goes to the Maryborough Chamber of Commerce, especially president Lance Stone and Dean Hazelwood, who organised the event. A few years ago the FCO—the Fraser Coast Opportunities—ran the event. They gave it back to the community. The Maryborough Chamber of Commerce took it on.

It is a marvellous event. We read so much in the press about the youth of today and how they are out of control. Some 141 teams and over 1,500 competitors raced around a track for 24 hours. To stand there and watch these kids was amazing.

The Maryborough ALP put a team in. For that I thank Terry Meaker. It was called the Demaine Red Flyer. It was named after one of the great Labor men of the Maryborough and Wide Bay district. Members hear me talk about Billy Demaine at great length.

Mr Power: Not enough.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. He was a great man. We keep the Demaine name alive in Maryborough.

We had a team from Maryborough State High School. The principal gladly took the money that Terry Meaker raised. We called it the Billy Demaine Red Flyer. It was a flyer. It did very well. We saw it fly around the track. I was thinking what Billy would have thought because we all know that he was a member of the suicide squad in the 1920s upper house. I wonder what he would think about the Demaine Red Flyer running around the CBD of Maryborough.

The HPV is a truly remarkable event. They are human powered vehicles. These kids go for 24 hours. I was exhausted watching them. I went down to pit lane with the principal of Maryborough State High School, Simon Done, and had a look at the Demaine Red Flyer and had a look at the kids on their bikes warming up before the event. The tenacity of these kids is amazing. They start in March every year. They organise their teams and have physios organised. People would think they are at Le Mans when they watch these kids race around, but it is in downtown Maryborough—the greatest city in Queensland. I will say that again: Maryborough—the greatest city in Queensland. It is really great to be part of it. It makes the CBD come alive.

I congratulate the chamber of commerce, because it looks as though they will be taking this event on for another 10 years. A big thanks to Lance Stone and Dean Hazelwood and the volunteers. The volunteers make this event a significant event in Maryborough city. I am proud to represent the people and the kids who took part in it. I invite everyone to come up next year and have a look at the HPV in Maryborough city. You will not regret it.