




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Leyburn Sprints

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (5.28 pm): This evening I rise to give a contribution regarding a great community event that I attended recently to represent the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Kate Jones. That event was the historic Leyburn Sprints, and what an event it was. The first thing I learned was that the town is pronounced 'leeburn' and not 'layburn', and by the end of the weekend I finally had that hammered home. It is the 21st anniversary of that legendary motoring experience and the town certainly turned on the hospitality for the event. Yards were impeccably tidied, lawns were mowed and the sense of community pride was incredible. The start line of the sprints is adjacent to the centrepiece of the town, the historic Leyburn pub, once owned by Rugby League legend and Leyburn local Shane Webcke. I understand that the pub is the oldest continually licensed premises in Queensland and was built in 1863. The sense of nostalgia in the place is amazing.

The Leyburn Sprints were started 21 years ago to commemorate the running of the Australian Grand Prix in the nearby disused wartime airfield in 1949. From what I saw, the event is going from strength to strength and year by year is becoming larger than ever. It has always been on my bucket list to attend the Leyburn Sprints, and as a motoring enthusiast I was not disappointed. The field of entrants had over 200 vehicles, spanning 91 years of motoring history. The vehicles ranged from a 1925 Austin to a 2016 purpose-built race car called a 'Fly'. There were Morris Minors and Minis, Cortinas and Corvettes and more Leyland P76s than I have ever seen in one place.

The amazing roar of this vast field of engines had to be heard to be believed; a symphony of pistons some might say. Standout vehicles for me were a 400cc two-stroke Goggomobil Dart—yes, the Dart—a Nascar engine XY Falcon GT and, as the member for Bundaberg would appreciate, several XU1 Toranas. The outright winner for the weekend was Dean Amos in his British built 1997 Gould GR37 with a time of 42.5 seconds. This year was Dean's third straight win. He and his team are doing something consistently right.

I ran into quite a few old friends and acquaintances from over the years. Two of them who were competing were Brendan Lloyd, an old workmate from Powerlink's secondary systems team, in a 2003 Porsche 996 GT3, and Moreton Bay local Jim Hodgson in his 1964 Ford Shelby Mustang GT 350.

The event was commentated on all weekend by Will Hagon, Wes Beadman and Bobby McGee. Will Hagon deserves special mention as the voice of motor racing. His knowledge of motoring and racing history was a pleasure to listen to. Credit must also be given to the Chant and Collins families and the committee for their continuing work in running this great event so smoothly year after year and also the marshals, officials, store holders and residents. I will be going back. This event is worth seeing.