



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Night of 1000 Drawings

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (10.35 pm): Last Wednesday evening, the Bundaberg and region community came together to celebrate artists, share local culture and, most importantly, provide hope and comfort to those in need both in the local community and on a global scale. The Night of 1000 Drawings event is an initiative of Act Of, a project run solely by volunteers whose mission it is to promote, share and mobilise acts of kindness locally and globally.

Bundaberg's Night of 1000 Drawings was a one-night-only art exhibition and sale to raise funds for a locally based organisation, Phoenix House, which we all know does wonderful work with DV Connect, and the South African based Makhundu Christian Support. In the lead-up to this extraordinary event, many professional artists, budding artists, art enthusiasts and even local children submitted original artwork pieces that were then up for grabs on the night. All profits raised from the sale of those one-off pieces went straight to Phoenix House in support of its equine facilities therapy program, which helps women and children affected by domestic or sexual violence, and to Makhundu Christian Support, which has housed, fed and monitored the progress of more than 1,800 AIDS orphaned children in South Africa.

Last Wednesday I was privileged to witness those remarkable acts of kindness as volunteers from different ages, backgrounds and walks of life stood shoulder to shoulder in support of the cause, helping to raise vital funds. I was proud to stand beside those amazing people as a sponsor and volunteer. Throughout the evening, the donated pieces of artwork flew off the walls as our community rallied together. The Bundaberg and Burnett community's generosity shone through, with over \$3,000 being raised in profit from the night. Incredibly, the generosity of locals continued after a further \$5,000 was raised thanks to an anonymous donor in Bargara.

Having spent a little time with the volunteers and attendees on the night, at the end of the evening I walked away with a sense of enormous pride in our community's spirit and generosity. The creativity and kindness exuding from our community is truly awe inspiring. In closing, I pay tribute to the organisers, volunteers and generous locals who brought the event to life. Their compassion helped to support the important work of Phoenix House in providing safe, supportive services to women and children who have been affected by domestic or sexual violence.

It is also important to acknowledge our host for the night, the Bargara Brewing Company, which is a craft brewery and retail brew house in the region. It is a boutique brewery. We are very excited that Jack Milbank and his team continue to put Bundaberg and the region on the map. Of course, most members will not remember—but they should remember—the first two beers that were brought out, the Thirsty Turtle and the Drunk Fish. Importantly, two new brands have been added to the menu: the Bargara Hip Hop and the Bargara Rusty Roo. I thank Jack Milbank and all of the volunteers for the great event.