




Speech By
Tony Perrett

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

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ADJOURNMENT

Gympie Show

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (10.19 pm): Gympie has just spent three days celebrating all that is great about the produce, industries, businesses and activities of the region with its 128th annual show. While attendance numbers are not yet official, they are expected to show crowds were up 25 to 30 per cent on those of last year. The show's success is a testament to the work and commitment of the local organising committee of president Joe Mooney, vice-president David Warren, secretary Donna Dodson and treasurer Steven Smith. They were, of course, helped on by the fine weather, fireworks, rodeo and a spread of new events which drew in the crowds. Our show is the third largest in Queensland, which is a mighty feat for an area which has to compete with larger regional centres and cities.

The large numbers of exhibitors providing more displays, exhibits and entries demonstrates the wonderful kaleidoscope of our region. Major sponsors who helped set up a strong promotional and financial basis for the committee to gear up to the big event included: Gympie Regional Council; Tom Grady Real Estate; and Budget Steel/Cavalier Engineering. Other large sponsors, reflecting the wide variety of industries within Gympie, were Corbets Group, University of the Sunshine Coast, Cooloola Custom Stock Feeds, Cooloola Milk and Nestle. New to the list of sponsors are Keba Engineering, Cleanaway, RRR Towing, the Recreational Flying Company, Vanderfield, Madills Isuzu, Gympie Isuzu and Pacific Hyundai, PHE, ICUC Spectacles and Repairs, In House Monograms, Mary Valley Timbers, and Saw Kitchen and Cabinetry.

Congratulations also to the wonderful promotional efforts of the two rural ambassadors and the fundraising efforts of the four showgirls, who raised in excess of \$71,000. Horse events, dairy cattle judging, stud beef finals, pedigree dog events and trials, horticulture, poultry and cage bird judging, sheep-shearing demonstrations and some fiercely competitive woodchop events reflect the foundations of our local agricultural industries.

The chief stewards—Ray Zerner in dairy, John Warren in the ring, Shane Jocumsen in the pavilion, Terri-Jayne Ramsey in prime cattle, Warren Smith in stud beef and Stephen Clough—are to be commended for their hard work in making sure everything ran smoothly. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Narelle Towner, who is partly employed by the show society, for putting in many hours of work.

We all know that show societies in Australia have the largest number of volunteers and our show would not be able to run without the strong support, efforts and many unpaid hours of work of our volunteers. Unfortunately, as with many events these days, the numbers of volunteers were down this year so the result is a fitting commendation of the hard work of those who continue to make the Gympie Show one of the most successful in Queensland.