




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.39 pm): One of the best kept secrets on the Gold Coast is the existence of the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra, who are a collection of extremely talented and mostly part-time musicians joined together by their common love of music. On this past weekend I was privileged to attend the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra's 'Two Bands, One Voice' performance following their two-day workshop with the RAN Band Queensland, more colloquially known as the Queensland Navy band. I thank the Queensland Navy band for sharing their finely honed musical talents with our local orchestra.

I am proud to have been a patron of the wonderful Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra for a number of years along with my fellow LNP politicians Rob Molhoek, member for Southport; and John-Paul Langbroek, member for Surfers Paradise. I have been lucky to attend several of the talented performances that they have conducted over this time as they bring their beautiful efforts to the ears of Gold Coast residents. As somewhat of a music aficionado, I have attended a multitude of wonderful performances by various musicians and other orchestras and I can confidently say that the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra ranks amongst the most enjoyable I have attended. My only wish is that there were more people there to savour the majesty of the experience.

The performance on Sunday, 25 February featured music and arrangements from notables such as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Franco Cesarini and Don Henley among others with additional music and performances by the Queensland Navy band to support the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra. There were also members from the Gold Coast City Brass Band to round out the big band sound, and the collective muscle of these accomplished musicians delivered a repertoire of positively delightful compositions that were literally 'music to my ears'. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Director of Music, Gordon Richmond, as well as Matt Pearson. Along with the orchestra, they put on a truly wonderful performance. Of particular noteworthiness was the participation of the Queensland Navy band under Chief Petty Officer Andrew Stapleton, whose team gave much appreciated professional support to the Gold Coast Wind Orchestra.

I am pleased to sponsor and support this vibrant community activity which highlights the kaleidoscope of artistic and cultural diversity available on the fabulous Gold Coast. Whilst we may be seen as the glitzy, glamorous city of fun and sand, there are some serious artistic contributors within our community and none better demonstrated than by the dedicated, talented and friendly members of the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra. I say congratulations on their wonderful performance. I look forward to attending their performance again next year with great expectation.