




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Lakeside Park

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (6.07 pm): I have some happy news. I rise this evening to let members know about a recent event that I had the honour of attending in my electorate of Kallangur and, more particularly, at Lakeside raceway recently. I know I have spoken about this great asset to our community in the past, but for the uninitiated I will give a little background to what I am talking about.

Lakeside raceway or Lakeside Park is one of Australia's classic racing circuits. It opened in 1961, built by volunteers and borrowed machinery. Prior to its temporary closure in mid-2001, it had hosted many Australian touring car rounds, GT races and the Australian Superbike Championship. The circuit has twice hosted grand prix for formula race cars, with Graham Hill winning the first edition with a BRM in 1966. The fast and challenging nature of the circuit has provided an education for a generation of Queensland's racing drivers and riders, including John French, Dick Johnson, Gregg Hansford, Tony Longhurst, Will Power and five-time 500cc grand prix motorcycle road racing world champion Mick Doohan. In fact, Mick Doohan once stated, 'If you can learn to race a motorbike at Lakeside, you can compete at any racetrack in the world.' I must say that it is a difficult track, so I agree with him.

During the seven years the circuit was closed, several organisations and activist groups made up of competitors, fans and driver training advocates campaigned to have the circuit reopened. I must say that in the years it was shut it was quite upsetting to see it unloved, with grass growing through the track. Two of these activist groups, Friends of Lakeside and Lakeside Motor Racing Enthusiasts, both comprise car and motorcycle aficionados from all age groups who hail from various motoring fraternities. In late 2007, the council and Queensland Raceway signed off on a 30-year long-term lease to operate the facility, including both driver training and racing. Racing has been limited by noise to 95 decibels and time constraints as a means of ensuring neighbourhood management.

Last weekend was an exceptionally special event at Lakeside. It was called 'A weekend at Brocky's'. Peter Brock's brother Phil Brock was there. He has held similar events in the southern states but this was the first time this event has ever been held in Queensland. There were Brock cars on display and driven. On Saturday night there was a session where Phil talked about what it was like to grow up with, work with and race alongside his legendary brother. No topics were off limits during the Q and A session. We heard the inside story on a lot of the highlights as well as the controversy of Peter's life, including the infamous Energy Polariser. This was a fantastic event and I thank the operators John and Amanda Tetley and Phil Brock for an amazing weekend of motorsport entertainment in my area.

Since being elected, I have been a great supporter of this facility, and I will continue to be so. I hope to see it embrace more driver training activities and continue to bring the huge numbers of people to my area to support the local businesses that it currently does.