




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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ADJOURNMENT

Mareeba Multicultural Festival

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.59 pm): I would first of all like to thank the people of Townsville for such a wonderful week. I would also like to acknowledge the three wonderful members from this region. I thank them for their hospitality and for making us all feel welcome in this wonderful city.

Today I would like to talk about the Mareeba Multicultural Festival. The Mareeba Multicultural Festival is a major annual calendar event and this year Mareeba delivered another vibrant and colourful multicultural festival. On Saturday, 31 August, I had the pleasure of representing the Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, at the official opening of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival. I also want to congratulate everyone who took Australian citizenship on the day. As the local member, it was humbling to join the Mareeba Shire Council mayor, Councillor Tom Gilmore, to welcome our new citizens to beautiful Mareeba. The Mareeba shire is home to some 64 different nationalities and we should be proud that people from all over the world have chosen to make Queensland their home.

I would like to acknowledge Giuliano Cordenos. When I first met Giuliano, he told me how he came to Australia as a young man from Italy because he wanted to start a life in Australia. Giuliano landed in Melbourne and found a job as a kitchen hand for a family business. English was a foreign language, but let me tell the House that he did not let that stop him from wanting to succeed and he was determined to learn English. With the little he received in wages, he paid for shelter and food and saved the rest to bring his young bride from Italy to Australia.

Giuliano eventually made his way to Mareeba where he cut cane. He told me the only time he had to rest was when he was asleep and he tells me that no-one can argue with him about what hard work really is. With the love of his life on his mind, Giuliano worked hard to succeed and his hard work eventually paid off when he was finally reunited with his one true love. Giuliano is a well-known member of the Mareeba community who owns several businesses in the shire. He speaks passionately about supporting and building the local community and region. Giuliano was one of the pioneers of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival and served 20 years as the chair of the festival committee. After 20 years, it was not surprising to see Giuliano back again on Saturday proudly wearing his committee shirt. Giuliano reassured me that he was not working on committee business but was merely back to make sure things ran well.

With August being Multicultural Queensland Month, there are many others like Giuliano who are valuable members of our community who proudly call Queensland home. We have seen 100 events being celebrated and showcasing Queensland's unique cultural diversity and acknowledging that we all belong. I give a shout-out to the new chair of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival, Jennifer Murat, and committee members for their valuable contribution in pulling together another successful event. It was wonderful to see Mareeba and the surrounding community come out in force to celebrate cultural diversity in Mareeba and send a strong message of a strong and unified Queensland.