



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Gladstone Harbour Festival; Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.12 pm): Tonight I rise to share my excitement with the House about Easter in the Gladstone region. The Gladstone Harbour Festival is a hugely popular free event run from Wednesday through to Easter Sunday. It includes rides, entertainment, sideshow alley, market stalls and delicious food from the Gladstone region. The fun does not stop there; there were car shows, art shows, orchid shows, stamp fairs and also fun runs. I had the pleasure of getting up at six o'clock on Good Friday to shoot the start gun for that run. There was truly something in the electorate for everyone to do. It is estimated that over the five days of the Gladstone Harbour Festival this year there were record crowds in excess of 55,000.

Easter weekend in Gladstone also marks the arrival of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the competitors that come with it. Now in its 71st year, the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race is a premier event on the Queensland yacht-racing calendar. The fleet this year of 51 yachts comprising competitors in two race events left the Shorncliffe pier in Moreton Bay on Good Friday morning. This year *Black Jack* came within minutes of breaking its own record, arriving in the early hours of Saturday morning. *Black Jack* took out the line honours in the mono hull event and also won the Four Cities Cup, which is awarded to the overall winner of the Sydney to Hobart and Brisbane to Gladstone yacht races. In the multi hull event *Beau Geste*, the fastest yacht in the Southern Hemisphere, broke the record and was the first to arrive into the Gladstone Marina.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** I fired the gun for the start of it.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I was there at the finish; I take that interjection. This year's festivities also saw the inaugural B2G Village, a return to the good old days when we used to welcome the yachts, celebrating until the early hours of the morning. The village started with a decadent yachtsman's luncheon, then there was a seafood festival on the Saturday and the final event, the line-crossing party, which was very well attended. Thousands streamed through the gates of the village over the three days of the event and took in the live music, incredible local seafood, cold brews and stunning outlook sitting right on the wonderful Gladstone Harbour.

I would like to take the time remaining to acknowledge the mayor from Gladstone, Matt Burnett, and his councillors for their belief and commitment to the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the Gladstone Harbour Festival. It truly is a wonderful community event. There is nowhere better to be in Queensland than in Gladstone at Easter. I look forward to welcoming all members of this House. At some stage during their term in this parliament they should ensure they make their way to Gladstone, particularly over that Easter weekend, and celebrate in the Brisbane to Gladstone village for the 72nd Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race which will be held next year on the waterfront in the wonderful Gladstone Harbour.