




Speech By
Amy MacMahon

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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ADJOURNMENT

Beenleigh Cane Festival; Herbst, Mr NR

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.21 pm): Beenleigh is back! Last month the Beenleigh Cane Festival returned after a seven-year hiatus. On 16 October Beenleigh turned on the sunshine and the sugar for the return of the Beenleigh Cane Parade, which featured over 50 floats making their way up George Street and City Road. Community groups, sporting clubs, local schools and bands took to the streets for a good old-fashioned street parade. I participated in the last Beenleigh Cane Parade alongside the Attorney-General in 2014, and with the return of the parade I was promoted to parade judge.

Competition was fierce in many categories, but the overall winner was the *SS Walrus* float which celebrated Beenleigh Rum Distillery's salubrious beginnings as an illegal floating rum distillery in the 1860s—which, by the way, makes it Australia's oldest still producing rum distillery. Congratulations to all entrants. The evening of the 16th was capped off with the Beenleigh Cane Festival gala ball. Beenleigh society frocked up and rocked up to the Beenleigh Events Centre for a black tie event featuring live music, dancing and a menu showcasing local produce and charity auctions. The festival was hosted by Beenleigh Rotary and I want to thank it for the massive amount of work that went into getting this event, previously a regular on the Beenleigh calendar since the 1960s, up and running again. It was no small feat and I was glad to support this event as a participant and now a judge and sponsor. I look forward to its plans to reintroduce the Cane Queen competition.

While Beenleigh said hello again to one of its well loved events, last week Beenleigh said goodbye to one of its most prominent citizens. Noel Herbst was a cornerstone of the Beenleigh community—from being ringmaster at the Beenleigh Show since 1967 and one of Beenleigh district's prominent canefarmers. But where Noel came to prominence across Queensland was as a pioneer of the Queensland prawn farming industry, starting by investing in prawn farming in the 1980s.

In 1993 he was instrumental in establishing the Australian Prawn Farmers Association and over the last 35 years he has made a valuable contribution to the development of the prawn farming industry in Australia. This included development of innovative farming techniques, sustainable farming practices and research initiatives. Mr Herbst was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Australian prawn farming industry and to his local community.

Members of the House here may not have known Noel like I did, but I can almost guarantee you knew his prawns. For those who remember the previous term when we held a number of fundraisers for natural disasters on the Speaker's Green, Noel Herbst's Gold Coast Tiger Prawns supported the events and his prawns were featured on the menu enjoyed by members from both sides.

Vale, Noel Reginald Herbst.