



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### **Beenleigh Cane Festival; Beenleigh Hawks Baseball Club; Curtis, Mr V**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (10.48 pm): With May coming to a close, I get to reflect on the Beenleigh cane festival, which occurs when the cane harvest season commences next month. The Beenleigh Cane Parade is an opportunity for community groups, schools and local businesses to parade their Beenleigh pride through the streets of Beenleigh—down George Street and Main Street en route to the Beenleigh Showgrounds. There are over 50 entrants in the parade this year, and I commend Beenleigh State School for winning the best school entrant, the Windaroo Valley Sate High School Drum Line for winning the best band, and a big mention to local dance troupe Step Right Dance studios who managed to dance their way through the whole 1.5 kilometre route. It was a big effort. The parade ended in a community event at the showgrounds with food trucks, rides and entertainment, finishing with a laser light show that entertained all ages.

The cane festival concluded last weekend with the Beenleigh Cane Gala Ball raising funds for our local chappies. The whole Beenleigh cane festival is thanks to Rotary Beenleigh, which is a fantastic group of volunteers—as we note Volunteer Week—led ably by the 2024 president, Rachelle Mulraney. I would like to thank all of her executive and volunteers for all of the work that went into the festival which occurred over the space of more than a week.

I would also like to congratulate the mighty Beenleigh Hawks Baseball Club, specifically their masters team but also, more importantly from my perspective, their women's team. They won the women's Brisbane grand final, after winning the souths championship, when we proceeded up to Pine Rivers. Throughout the season we were undefeated, after beating those Redlands Rays and Western Dogs along the way. In the grand final we took on the Redcliffe Padres and smashed them in the final innings to become the north and south Brisbane champions. It was pointed out to me at the presentation night that I had not yet mentioned this in the House, so I thought I would do that tonight.

On a last note, a couple of weeks ago in an adjournment speech I made special mention of a wonderful couple who had celebrated 70 years of marriage earlier this year. I am so glad that we got to attend that event because, unfortunately, Val Curtis passed away about two weeks ago—two days shy of his 95th birthday. A 70th wedding anniversary does not happen very much and I am so glad they got to reach it.