




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

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ADJOURNMENT

Gympie Show

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (10.33 pm): Last weekend Gympie celebrated our region's produce, businesses, industry and activities with its 135th show. It is one of the largest shows in regional Queensland. Across the three days, 20,171 people turned up to enjoy the wide variety of displays, exhibits, entries and events representing our region. This year's organisers knew that increased cost-of-living pressures would be a challenge. The show committee did not increase prices and absorbed costs even though its own expenses have risen—some by 30 per cent.

On Thursday, 404 aged-care and special needs attendees and 2,361 school students and their teachers came through the gates. Everyone was there, including: machinery alley displays, fire and rescue displays, fireworks, rodeo, stud and prime cattle, dairy cattle, showjumping, dog high jump, woodchop, led and ridden horse classes, harness racing, pig races, poultry, birds, fruit and vegetables, animal nursery, miniature ponies, Rooftop Express, Airtime FMX and racing lawnmowers. My own stand was visited by thousands who collected material and stopped for a chat. It was a great opportunity to interact with my community.

A show only exists because of long, unpaid hours from many volunteers. This year's show was a testament to the work and commitment of the organising committee, the 532 members and volunteers, and the 35 James Nash State High School work experience students who set up and worked at the show. They all helped run gates and events, man stands, clean areas, serve people and organised before, during and after the show. In a tribute to volunteer Bill Fallon, the main entrance has been named Bill Fallon Way. Bill started setting up the show almost half a century ago and volunteered 150 hours every show for 48 years.

The show was supported by more than 120 sponsors and the fundraising efforts of showgirls and rural ambassadors. They raised almost \$130,000 to help host the event. A special thanks to Showgirl Shanika Tappert and Rural Ambassador James Smith, together with entrants Laura Burnett, Hannah Johnston, Payton Rozynski, Alexa Ritchie, Charlotte Sippel, Larney Steggal and Amy Wheeler. The show also provides an opportunity for many schools and P&Cs, kindergartens, sporting groups, community organisations and service clubs to raise thousands from manning gates, parking, traffic control, cleaning facilities, running bars and food stalls.

Last year also brought some sadness with the loss of three long-time supporters: Bill McIntyre, Bernard Ramsey and Frank Boyd. Collectively, they had contributed for decades. It was fitting that a minute's silence was held in recognition of them. The Gympie Show was a fitting start to National Volunteer Week.