



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

SEAFEST; BANANA FESTIVAL; GOLDEN GUMBOOT FESTIVAL

Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (9.03 pm): I rise tonight to advise the House of the outstanding efforts of the local community in my electorate in recent weeks in organising, hosting and presenting several local festivals and events that showcase and celebrate the close and complementary relationship between the natural environment and primary industries.

On Saturday, 4 August and Sunday, 5 August the township of Cardwell hosted its annual lifestyle and seafood festival known as Seafest. Seafest is a very strong community event. It was an honour to be given the opportunity to officially open Seafest on the Saturday morning. An initiative of the Cardwell Chamber of Commerce, Seafest has developed and added to its program over a number of years. While many locals attend Seafest, it was obvious from the large crowd of visitors who attended the festival that Seafest has developed a regional profile.

There were many highlights over the weekend that showcased a great range of local food, products and entertainment, but there was also an important education focus, whereby officers from Queensland Fisheries, marine researchers from James Cook University and local fishing industry representatives were present to provide information about fishing and marine issues in the Hinchinbrook area. I congratulate the organising committee on their efforts to promote Cardwell through Seafest and offer my ongoing support.

On Saturday, 18 August the Mission Beach State School hosted its annual Banana Festival. The Banana Festival is a well-established event held for many years in the local district that promotes the strong association that the local community has with the local banana industry which provides many jobs in the area. The Banana Festival has developed into a wider celebration of the local lifestyle and Mission Beach State School has developed it into a major event for the school and the community. I was pleased to visit the Banana Festival and witness strong crowds who enjoyed terrific food and entertainment throughout the afternoon and the evening. Understandably, bananas were the dominant theme of the festival. As I have said in this place before, my electorate produces 65 per cent of Australia's bananas. The Banana Festival also serves to promote this clean, green, Australian grown product that is particularly healthy and sustains thousands of local families and communities. I congratulate Mission Beach State School on its ongoing success in hosting the Banana Festival.

Last weekend on Saturday, 1 September the township of Tully hosted the Golden Gumboot Festival which obviously gets its theme from Tully's very high rainfall every year. The festival commenced with a street parade and then was opened by a ceremonial throwing of gumboots by several civic leaders, including myself. The entertainment and displays by local and visiting performers was of a very high standard. The local community and the many visitors and tourists to the area who attended the festival enjoyed an excellent afternoon.

The festival had a strong focus on families and encouraged many community organisations to participate with stalls and displays. The Golden Gumboot Festival is an initiative of the Tully and District Chamber of Commerce. The community focus of the festival continued with the Tully Gym and Tramp Club being the beneficiary of monies raised by the festival. I was pleased to see the efforts of the Golden Gumboot Festival organising committee were rewarded with a very strong crowd in attendance on Saturday and I congratulate them to that end. Ironically the weather was perfectly fine and everybody had a great afternoon.