

FESTIVALS IN NORTH OF STATE

Statement by Member for Ningaloo

MR R.N. SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [12.58 pm]: I am sure many members will be aware that it is festival time in the north of the State again. I have had the very good fortune over the past couple of weeks to attend portions of the Fortescue Festival in Newman, and the festival organised in Carnarvon. The Carnarvon festival starts off with the kids' festival and culminates in the rodeo, which is the main festival event for Carnarvon for the year. In acknowledging the great time I had through the very considerable efforts of others, I want to recognise the many volunteers who get involved in those community events, for which the north of the State is famous. In my home town of Carnarvon, the Gascoyne Population Health Unit takes a lot of time and effort, vigorously chasing down sponsorship to be able to put on a festival free of charge for all the kids in Carnarvon. I attended three separate parts of that children's festival, and I was absolutely fascinated to see the various activities they are involved in, and the enormous participation rate. Often, more than 300 children are participating in various events. Tremendous credit must go to people like Jill Burke-Miller from the Gascoyne Population Health Unit and her colleagues Chris Hall and Alsa Alston. It was also pleasing to see the culmination of that week of kids' festivities in the rodeo and the ute muster. It was particularly pleasing to see Andrew Buzzard and his hardworking group, including Jarrod Walker. A new wave of volunteers in the Carnarvon area are prepared to put their shoulder to the wheel and organise these community events for the benefit and social development of the community.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm