

## **GOLDFIELDS CYCLASSIC**

### *Statement*

**HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral)** [5.20 pm]: I rise today to talk about what took place in the goldfields on the weekend. This is the second year that I have taken part in these events and I have to say that I had an absolute blast. The weekend's festivities began on Saturday morning. We took off and drove to Menzies, which is 132 kilometres from Kalgoorlie, and went past about 100 pushbike cyclists on the road, who were racing in the Menzies Classic stage of the Goldfields Cyclclassic, which is a really great event. Cyclists come from Perth and all around Australia to ride from Kalgoorlie to Menzies. Believe it or not, they do it in about four hours. I did it in about an hour in the car, which was pretty comfortable.

Menzies is a very small town and not many events come through it, but it is well known for Lake Ballard. When we got to the finish line, all the kids were on the street having a blast. St John Ambulance was there, a sausage sizzle was going and a few blokes were in the pub having a few drinks. It was pretty lively and really good for the town. The event is well known for giving Menzies a bit of a day, and it did not disappoint.

Over the radio it came through that the A-grade riders, who had left a long time after riders in the other grades, had overtaken them as they were coming into Menzies, which made for a huge spectacle and a really good race to the end. There was a good sprint finish and everyone had a great day. After the race finished, I caught up with the shire president, Greg Dwyer, and his wife, Jill, and headed to the jersey presentations for the winner of the sprint leg and the overall winner.

We had some time, so we also popped out to Niagara Dam, which is about 40 kilometres out of Menzies. I had not been there before, so we had a bit of a look at the history. It was quite amazing. A heap of campers were out there, so it was quite lively. We then went up the road to the Kookynie pub, which I had heard plenty about but had not been to. There was still a horse standing at the door—I think his name is Willie—who was quite feisty. He would not let us in the door for a bit, but we got past him. He tried to take a bite, but, luckily, he missed. There were a couple of tourists who had flown in on their plane and a couple of other people who were camping there. The place has a lot of mining history and a lot of people were talking about mines that had opened up or closed down. It used to be really lively in Kookynie. The train used to pick people up, take them to the Leonora races and drop them back. It has changed quite a bit now and is quite slow, but a lot of tourists from the Goldfields Cyclclassic were expected to stay there that night.

We went back to Menzies and the shire had put on an awesome feed in the hall for the cyclists. All the work was done by volunteers—friends and family—in Menzies, and was really well accepted by the cyclists. DJ Rev CB was the name of the musical act. He had people doing line dancing, which I did not attempt to do—nor did I attempt to cycle 132 kilometres—but it was a great night.

We then headed up to Leonora. Another event, which is held on the Sunday, is the Leonora Golden Gift. It is in its seventeenth year. It is an amazing event. It starts off at 7.00 am at the Gwalia mine site, with a really good breakfast on the lawn at Hoover House, and all the runners and community members get to mingle. I was happy to see that, this year, a huge focus was put on the kids. Athletes come from around Australia and the world for the Golden Gift—by the way, the gift pays the highest prize money in Australia for a mile run, so it is very prestigious. In previous years, attempts have been made to involve the kids, but, this year, athletes had spent about four weeks with the kids at the school, educating them on what it is to be an athletic runner, and getting them to do starts and sprints and all that sort of stuff. It was really about the kids this year. The patron of the gift, Kiara Reddingius, who has won the 120-metre sprint seven years in a row, puts in a lot of work. She is a super quick sprinter and is right out there and quite big in the sport. She is a Leonora local, and she comes back to Leonora to give back to the kids and try to build them up and show them that there is a role model and a way to achieve their goals. It was amazing to see these kids getting around.

One of the kids, who I think was about 12 years old, entered the Open Mile, a one-mile race on the main road of Leonora. His name was Jurvarne. He entered wearing no shoes, and with his Lakers singlet on. He came fourth in that race. It was unbelievable, the absolute hard work he put in. He was a bit shy about doing it, but Kiara had built him up to that. He also won the Moneghetti Medal, which is excellent. Steve Moneghetti has also run in the gift, which gave it a real boost back in the day. It was unreal. Jurvarne was getting around with the men who ran in the Open Mile—adult athletes—and it is phenomenal that he came fourth.

**Hon Alannah MacTiernan:** How old was he, member?

**Hon KYLE MCGINN:** Twelve. He has quite a big future ahead of him, that is for sure. If he was given a pair of running shoes, he would probably halve his time.

The winners of the Elite Mile were Stewart McSweyn for the men's and Georgia Griffith for the women's. The competitors in the race had come from America, New Zealand and all over. Kiara raced in the 120-metre final, but she lost this year to Lora Storey for the women's by 0.02 of a second, and Aaron Bresland won the men's. The

Masters Mile was taken home by a Kalgoorlie local, Dean O'Brien. The Open Mile winners were Rhodri Simmonds and Zoe Maccan. It was great to see them running on bitumen. I had never seen anything like it until last year. It is a real spectacle and does not happen very often.

In the Goldfields Cyclclassic, the Community Challenge winner was Matthew Fullgrave, the Chas Egan Memorial Menzies Classic winner was Brett Stapleton, and the Leonora Golden Wheels winners were Theo Yates and Amanda Nabi. Huge congratulations to all the athletes who took part in the event, and also to the shires—Greg Dwyer from Menzies and Peter Craig from Leonora do an awesome job.

They managed to secure Pete Murray for the music event on the Saturday night. We missed that by five minutes, which was disappointing. Pete Murray also played in Kalgoorlie on Australia Day, so I think he is doing a bit of a tour of the goldfields. It is a great night. There are food vans on the street. These things do not happen without sponsorship. A few people proudly sponsor the event time and again—Lotterywest, Tourism WA, Minara Resources, St Barbara Ltd, Saracen Mineral Holdings, Creative Spaces and the *Kalgoorlie Miner*. I look forward to going to this event again.

Straight after the event, we headed back to Kalgoorlie because WA Day was the following day. I have to give a shout-out to the Kalgoorlie WA Day at the Museum. If members have not been, please go. It is an awesome day. People can abseil down the side of the A-frame at the Museum. They can also buy some blueberry pancakes that are put on for a local charity. This year, it was for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and it was a great success. For members who have not been out to the goldfields, there are plenty of things to do. I recommend they get out to the Gift and the Cyclclassic next year.