

NAMELESS JARNDUNMUNHA FESTIVAL

Statement

HON PETER FOSTER (Mining and Pastoral) [6.40 pm]: I rise tonight to talk about the Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival that took place in Tom Price on Friday, 6 August and Saturday, 7 August. The Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival was cancelled last year due to COVID-19, and it was great to see the festival return to our events calendar this year. The festival is of special significance to the town of Tom Price and surrounding communities as it is a tradition that has continued for over 50 years. The Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival was supported this year by a grant from Lotterywest to the tune of \$30 000, which was put towards the production costs of the event. The Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival is also financially supported by the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto, which have financially supported the festival for many years. The festival is also supported by local businesses, many of which stepped in to provide equipment hire, infrastructure and transport.

The Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival was originally called the Nameless Festival Day, named after nearby Mount Nameless, and was first held in 1969 as a one-day fete organised by Tom Price Primary School Parents and Citizens Association to raise money for the school library. The festival grew incrementally throughout the 1970s, 80s and 90s into a week-long event that included a ball, fireworks, carnival rides, show bags, music and art exhibitions, and a beer tent known at the time as the “lost father’s tent”. There was even a local public holiday known as “Hamersley Iron Day”. The festival over the years has hosted a variety of interesting events, with bottomless boat regattas; inter-town tug-of-war competitions between Tom Price and Paraburdoo; rolling pin throwing; and the truck pull challenge from the 1980s, where teams formed to put their strength to the test against a 170-tonne unit rig Haulpak, which was later upgraded to a MT4000 Haulpak in the 1990s. Doopa Dog, which I am sure some members may remember, made regular appearances at the festival as well during the 90s. Lee Conway, Diesel, Shannon Noll and Reece Mastin have all played gigs at the festival over the years. In 2011, the festival’s name changed to the Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival in recognition of the traditional owners, the Eastern Guruma people, and their name for Mount Nameless, Jarndunmunha, which means “home of the rock wallabies”.

Every year the festival has a theme and this year’s festival theme was “the roaring twenties” in recognition of the 1920s. This year’s festival program included “king of the mountain”, whereby competitors ran up Mount Nameless Jarndunmunha; the roaring twenties festival ball; wearable arts; and home industry, with its famous “oz-kiwi” bake-off. We had crafts, construction, jams and cakes. There was the annual street parade, which was quite hotly contested this year between Tom Price Primary School and North Tom Price Primary School. I am pleased to report that North Tom Price Primary School won this year, much to the other school’s disgust! There was the grease, gears and grills car display, a variety of stalls, a talent contest, and a dog show, topped off, of course, with a big fireworks display on Saturday night. Suffice it to say, it was a very busy weekend.

As I mentioned in my inaugural speech, I have been involved with the festival for seven years and I know personally how many hours go into organising and planning it all out. I would like to take the time to thank the committee of 2021 for all their effort that they put in this year. In particular, I acknowledge committee president Kelly-Anne Camerlengo; vice president, Jazz Rolton; treasurer, Rebecca Belford; secretary, Sam Camerlengo; and committee members Clay Rogers, Heidi McDonald, Loulou and Ryan Marshal, Guilia, Elena, Cassie and Michael Blackwell, and Rhea Twentymen, plus all the other volunteers who stepped up to fill the gaps over the festival weekend. You all did an amazing job and, on behalf of the Tom Price community, I want to thank you all for your efforts, and I cannot wait to see what you have planned for 2022.