

MULLEWA MUSTER AND RODEO 2022

Statement

HON SANDRA CARR (Agricultural) [5.15 pm]: Recently, I had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, at the Mullewa Muster and Rodeo 2022. Yee-haw! This event has been on a two-year hiatus thanks to the impacts of COVID, and it has been desperately missed by the community. It is a highlight of the midwest community's events calendar, so it was certainly very well supported by the community far and wide. It was a sold-out event, so by the time some people turned up to the gate, they might have found themselves having to be a little bit inventive, as country people so often are, and jump the fence!

Hon Kyle McGinn: Was that you?

Hon SANDRA CARR: Kyle, I told you not to tell anyone!

By the time I arrived, there were eager crowds descending upon Mullewa. There were caravans, campers, trailers and swags. The whole place was heaving with people who were camping overnight because the Mullewa Muster and Rodeo Committee also put on a country music concert for the night. That included performers such as Craig Pickett, Monty Cotton and a band called Scarlet's Way. By all accounts, it was a fantastic night. I must admit that I did not make it to the concert on the night because I had earlier participated in the bootscooting lessons, and the old hip was playing up after that! I just went home and practised my moves; I will show them to members later! It was exhausting, but I want to say a big thankyou to the Geraldton Bootscooters, who took the time and had the good humour to try to teach us all a few steps and a couple of moves. They did a big group bootscoot at the end of the night, which they used drones to record; I believe a huge proportion of the crowd that attended that night all participated in the mass bootscooting event. I am quite disappointed that I did not get to attend that, but I am really looking forward to staying for it next year.

In amongst all the other family fun, there were the rodeo events, whip cracking, and the beaut ute competition—all those good, old-fashioned country events. There was also a local midwest icon, Fairy Deb, whom all the kids in the midwest adore. She does face painting and sings beautiful songs, and is like the Wiggles of the midwest for us! Everyone loves Fairy Deb. For anyone who was there and took a lot of snaps on the day, there is a photo competition running, and people have until 20 June to submit photos.

I would like to quickly acknowledge the major sponsors of the event, because it would not have been possible without them: Tourism WA, the City of Greater Geraldton, Total Toilets and the Mullewa Community Group Inc. They were the major sponsors, but there was a significant number of other sponsors and supporters from throughout the whole midwest community, including the member for Geraldton, Lara Dalton, and me. We both contributed money to make sure that that fabulous event went ahead. Participants and competitors in the events found themselves the recipients of some \$36 500 in prize money. There were some other wonderful moments in there, and I would also like to acknowledge City of Greater Geraldton councillors based in Mullewa, Councillor Thomas and Councillor Critch, who both were so lovely and showed that good old country hospitality that we all love by messaging me and inviting me to join them down in the front seats of the arena to watch all the action and get a mouthful of dust as the events took place! It was amazing to be so close to the live action at an event that I have never really seen from that perspective before; it was really exciting.

I really just want to take this moment to thank all the people involved in putting that event together: all the volunteers who contributed—there was a significant number of volunteers who contributed their time to make sure that the day was a success; the Mullewa Muster and Rodeo Committee; and all the competitors as well. Last of all, I thank all those members of the community who flocked to Mullewa in droves to make sure that the event was the huge success that it deserved to be after that two-year hiatus. It really injected so much enthusiasm and positivity into the community. Huge congratulations to Mullewa and the midwest community.