

in the opening and closing ceremonies and, of course, to play basketball. Like the Sydney Olympics, the athletes marched in a spectacular opening ceremony.

I think the highlight of the day was the sincere motivational speech made by Leroy Loggins. He got all of the athletes geared up and ready to take on the world. Leroy is a very special athlete, not only because of his sporting talent but also because of his caring nature, which certainly came through during his speech. He found time in his busy schedule not only to deliver an inspiring speech but also to spend time with the athletes. The look of joy on the faces of all of those who got a high five from Leroy made the day very special.

Dancing displays from young local dancers to the tune of the Special Olympics Queensland song was terrific to watch and added to the excitement of this spectacular event. A torch relay was enjoyed by all and the torch bearers were very proud athletes. Of course, who could forget the lighting of the flame?

In the International Year of the Volunteer, it is important to recognise the hard work done by so many generous people in our community. The people of Logan came together to support this event and to ensure that the day was a success. I have had over 500 nominations for volunteer certificates of appreciation. I have had the pleasure of presenting many of those certificates to people from a diverse range of organisations. I look forward to this Sunday when I will present medallions for outstanding voluntary contributions to the community, and Brian Kerle will help present sports medals to the people of the electorate.

Special Olympics believes that people with an intellectual disability can benefit from participation in team sports through the dedication of coaches who give support, instruction and encouragement. All of the athletes were true to their oath: let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt. I was extremely proud that the Springwood electorate was selected as the venue for this great event.

The second matter that I would like to talk about is the young people of the Slacks Creek State School. As I travel around the electorate, I see and hear of many wonderful opportunities being created for those young people. The Slacks Creek State School is a small school that is achieving very big things. The 128-year-old school recently guided community leaders, staff, parents, students and myself on a space journey. This was a futuristic workshop to gather views about the kind of institution that we would like the school to become. As we entered the twilight zone, strategic goals were developed in areas of importance to the school's operation. Close encounters of the third kind will see this information taken back to the school council and a plan for the future will be implemented.

⁰¹⁵ I pay tribute to the principal, Mr Garth Stephens, who brought us back to earth safely. I also congratulate the parents, staff and students who are working hard to create an enhanced educational opportunity and a caring community atmosphere at the school. Like so many of the Springwood schools, Slacks Creek also has a record of developing environmental programs. The school presented one of its environmental initiatives at the Kingston Butter Factory, and I was privileged enough to have a sneak preview of this preparation. Let me tell honourable members that it is a great initiative. It is called Cleaning Up Your Backyard. It discusses programs in place at the school for recycling, gardening, worm farming and other environmental programs.

Recently, a group of runners carrying a torch for world peace was supposed to come to the school. Unfortunately, those runners were subjected to physical attacks in Europe and were unable to continue through to the Springwood electorate and to the Slacks Creek State School. But the students of this school did not let that stop their prayers and their thoughts on peace. It was obvious from talking to the children that the events of 11 September had had an effect on how they view the world.

I would like to share the messages of peace presented to me by the preschoolers of the Slacks Creek State School. They asked me to bring this to parliament in the hope that we would share from their messages. On a fantastic poster they have asked us to 'Please bear in mind that we don't pinch, kick or hit' and that there is to be 'no throwing mud'. They have asked us to play with each other nicely, not to throw toys and not to stand on other people's toes. Most of all, they have asked us to be very smart on the beach and wear a hat. They particularly asked us to please bear in mind that there was to be 'no yelling'. I am sure we can learn from all of these messages. I thank the preschoolers for sharing their thoughts and prayers with me.

Computers for School Children; Sameway Milk

A service of Capital Monitor (02) 6273 4899

Mrs PRATT (Nanango—Ind) (11.50 a.m.): An incident whereby a school dumped old computers in the rubbish has inspired a group of volunteers to come together and try to help overcome the great divide in information technology that is developing between rural and city schoolchildren. A volunteer group calling itself Computers for School Children has recently been formed to rehabilitate old unwanted computers and donate them to deserving schoolchildren. Principals and a panel from the schools will decide who the children receiving them will be.

Don Hansford and his computer students at Kingaroy TAFE have assisted in the rehabilitation of these computers. The reason, they say, is that practice makes perfect and that doing something for free for the students is a pleasure. Not only is this an educational advantage for the TAFE students involved; their community-minded generosity is to be admired by all. The assistance of Bob Ferguson, the principal of Kingaroy State School, with the donation of some motherboards was also very much appreciated.

On Thursday, 6 September 2001 the first computer, which was actually one of mine, was donated to a school student from Kingaroy State School. In an electorate which has a majority of low income earners and a high unemployment rate, owning a computer is beyond the means of many. Erin Smith, who is in year seven, lives alone with her mother. Her written answer to the question 'Why do I deserve to receive a free computer?' was as follows: 'We would need to win the lotto to ever get a computer at our house.' Erin was so overwhelmed that she cried volumes of tears when she discovered that she was the winner. There was even a sign of maturity in the rest of the schoolchildren assembled there; every student was happy for Erin to receive this computer, and I think that made it even better and made us all realise that it was definitely the right choice.

There is the potential for a great number of underprivileged schoolchildren in my electorate to have the chance to keep up with technology that they would not have been able to access were it not for the group Computers for School Children. Other computers are now in the process of being repaired. Two such computers came from the Wooroolin tip and had many salvageable components. Upon repair, they will also be donated to another school in the area.

To avoid copyright problems, those that do not have Windows installed will come with a free program called Linux. Any person or company donating computers or components will be acknowledged at the handover ceremony at the schools to which these computers go. This week, a further two were to go to the Taabinga State School.

Another issue that I wish to raise is that of Sameday Fresh, which has now been called Sameway Milk. Dick Smith accompanied me in officially opening the Sameday Fresh Milk processing factory 12 months ago, and I congratulate John and Merrilyn on their first year of production. The Calvert family began production early in 2000. At the opening, there was a huge crowd of community and industry well-wishers.

This is a case of David and Goliath. Just like the Bible story, the Calverts are succeeding against the big boys. They are working at the grassroots and people in Queensland are supporting them. The Calvert operation is the exact opposite of globalisation. It is small businesses like this that are helping to support our children in jobs and our country.

As most honourable members would know, the majority of companies stating that their products are Australian made are in fact foreign owned companies. They might employ Australians, but the wealth is going overseas. They constantly drain profits from the country and we suffer in the short and long term.

Four generations of the Calvert family have worked the dairy property in the 50 years since Cliff Calvert came to the farm. As I said, Mr Calvert's son John, and Merrilyn, set up Sameday Fresh Milk one year ago. At the tender age of 13, Mr Calvert became a dairy farmer. Never in his wildest dreams did he envisage starting a production facility. Deregulation and the threatened loss of the farm ensured he made the hard decision, thus ensuring jobs for himself and his sons.

I am very sorry to say that during the company's first year the big boys came down like a tonne of bricks, but the Calverts fought on and are winning. In the latter part of 2000 it was reported that the ACCC received an allegation that Paul's Limited had indicated to local traders that it would discontinue supply of Paul's associated products if they stocked milk by independent producers. As I said, earlier this year the company was forced to change its name from Sameday Fresh Milk to Sameway Milk. I congratulate the Calverts on their tenacity and perseverance.

Police Numbers