

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY ARTS TRUST (CONSTITUTION OF TRUST)
AMENDMENT BILL – 13 Nov 08**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 October 2008. Page 702.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:10): I will be brief. I cannot help but make a couple of comments about rural youth and drama after hearing from the esteemed member for Finniss. I too was a bit of an actor in my day, many years ago in my youth, when I did not have grey hair. I was part of a celebrated team from the Coomandook Rural Youth Club, who won the state drama contest in the Clare Institute—so, very proud. There were people involved in that such as Adrian Kirchner, an old school buddy of mine, Julie Zander, and I am sure there were several others, probably Paul Simmons, a friend of mine, and these people are going far back. They were very heady days and it is a great pity that Rural Youth does not exist these days.

I recently attended a performance of *Cats* in Murray Bridge and I acknowledge the connection of Tim McFarlane, who was Andrew Lloyd-Webber's right-hand man. Tim is one of the Wellington McFarlanes, and he was there that night and I spoke with him. It was a great local performance of *Cats* by the Murray Bridge players in the town hall. I also acknowledge what happens with the local council and the art gallery at Murray Bridge. There are many displays of art at various times, many collections such as: Aboriginal art, children's art and there has even been a recent collection of prisoners' art there.

I would acknowledge the work of the local Rotary Clubs in running their cultural weekends in Murray Bridge and bringing together many cultures. Murray Bridge has become more and more multicultural as time goes by, especially with the need for international workers at the local meatworks. There is a large Chinese population, there are Sudanese, Afghans, and many others throughout the community that make up quite a cultural blend in Murray Bridge.

Finally, and I know the government usually expects a belting from this side, but I will acknowledge the government and its contribution of, I believe, over \$1 million towards the Murray Bridge council from South Australian Country Arts for the Regional Centre of Culture for 2010. I am sure that money will be well used.