



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.43 pm): You do not have to live along the Queensland coastline to understand the enormous contribution our volunteer surf lifesavers make, let alone the countless hours of service they perform to keep our beaches and our reputation safe. They have my ongoing support and respect, but tonight they have my deepest sympathy. It is with a truly heavy heart that I pay tribute to one amazing individual and top bloke, Dean Mercer, who was taken from us suddenly on the morning of 28 August when he suffered a massive heart attack at just 47 years young. Dean gave so much to the surf-lifesaving movement over many years as a competitor, coach, mentor and mate, but undoubtedly his biggest gift was as a husband to wife, Reen, and proud dad to their four boys.

On a happier note, I congratulate Currumbin Vikings as they once again took out the coveted 2017 Patrol Club of the Year at the annual Point Danger Surf Life Saving Queensland Awards night in July. Each year I sponsor a surf rescue board and the 11 clubs in the Point Danger branch compete for the title. I wish to place on public record my sincere thanks to all of our clubs for their dedication and outstanding community spirit. The Point Danger branch performed 205 rescues in the 2016-17 season. The rescue board was the most popular piece of rescue equipment used last season, utilised for 76 rescues.

Congratulations also to Lily Dick, Currumbin's very own Rugby Sevens gold medallist. Lily, a born and bred local, was a key player in the Australian women's Rugby Sevens taking out the gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas on 22 July with a huge win of 31-5 over regular rivals Canada. Our 'Gator' girls at Palm Beach Currumbin Rugby Union Club, the Alleygators, are going from strength to strength and we are very proud of their efforts. I am hopeful the Alleygators will be successful in securing funding in the new Get in the Game Female Facilities program to assist with the development of amenities for their female players. Lily's family are about as entwined in Currumbin as you can get. Father Craig, mother Joanne and brother Sam run the quaintly named Village Store right alongside Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and have done so for many years and the Dicks have been active members of Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Life Saving Club. Craig was a longstanding committee member of Teenage Adventure Camps Queensland, donating countless hours to make the annual camp at Currumbin for children with life-threatening disabilities a magical week.

Last week we lost another wonderful community member Keith Fleming, a long-serving, respected member of our local Lions Club who always had a smile and a yarn to tell no matter the time of day. Keith was a strong supporter of the LNP and mine, helping me on numerous election campaigns and giving unlimited hours performing whatever tasks we required. Keith left behind wife, Ruth, and son Gavin. Rest in peace, my dear friend.