



Speech by
**Mrs NITA
CUNNINGHAM**

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 6 September 2000

YOUNG PEOPLE OF BUNDABERG

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.16 p.m.): I would like to place on record in this House the remarkable achievements of some of the young students in Bundaberg. Too often we hear of teenagers who are doing the wrong thing, we hear of the trouble they are in, the problems they have and the problems they cause. But they are only a very small minority of the young people we have in Bundaberg.

Bundaberg has three young Olympians: Troy Elder, Dan Ronan and Steven Keir, and we will all be watching their performances in Sydney with pride. We have students from the Bundaberg State High School going to Sydney to do catering work at the Olympic village. Kepnock students will be part of the opening ceremony marching bands, and four of our naval cadets who have just won State honours will take part in the flag raising ceremonies at the Paralympics as well as representing Queensland in their national finals for naval cadets.

Our North Bundaberg Primary School Rugby team made it through to the State finals played at Lang Park last week. Bundaberg North State High School music students won the State Rock Eisteddfod, with Kepnock State High School students also competing in the finals and winning more on-stage awards of excellence than any other school in the competition.

Another 11 Kepnock State High School students recently won awards in the National Economics Competition, with Kelly Bray-Irvine being placed in the top 4% of students in Australia. Others did well in the National Science Awards. Last week, during visits to some of the schools in Bundaberg I heard of the outstanding fundraising activities of St Luke students, who raised \$350 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind and more than \$1,000 for another charity—a real credit to such a very small school.

At the special school I saw the wonderful new garden built by their students, while another group in the choir entertained us beautifully. It is amazing that those students cannot read and therefore have to memorise all of the words of those songs. At our Bundaberg area youth support AGM I saw yet another group of teenagers facing their problems with a wonderful sense of humour.

These are just some of the most recent achievements. All of these young people and many more are a credit to themselves, their families and their teachers, and in Bundaberg we are very proud of them all.
