



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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CONRAD JUPITERS SUMMER SURF GIRL; MS B. BROWN

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (6.54 p.m.): I rise tonight to congratulate Belinda Brown of the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club on winning the Conrad Jupiters Summer Surf Girl competition. The competition was held at Conrad Jupiters on Friday night. This is truly a magnificent achievement. Belinda was chosen from 19 other finalists in a range of categories and was considered by the judges to be the overall winner.

Congratulations must also go to Martha-Corrine Stumer and Amy Boogaardt, from the Southport and Northcliffe clubs respectively, for representing their clubs in the finals. Every young lady must be very proud of their achievement. This year the 19 finalists raised in excess of \$300,000 for the surf-lifesaving cause. This brings the total that the quest has raised up to \$7 million over the course of the competition, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year.

Belinda will now become the ambassador for Surf Life Saving Queensland. She has said that she hopes to encourage nippers to continue on with surf-lifesaving into their senior years. I will say to Belinda now that if she needs any assistance in forwarding this most worthwhile cause I will offer as much assistance as I can.

The nipper program run by Surf Life Saving Queensland does more than simply teach young Queenslanders the ins and outs of the surf, though that is important in itself. The program is also aimed at achieving outcomes that will cultivate leadership and people management skills from a young age. The nipper program is not confined to the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. City children are now experiencing this same opportunity with City Nippers being held at South Bank Parklands, while some young surf-lifesavers are chosen for leadership exchanges to sister cities overseas. In addition to this, Surf Life Saving Queensland is educating school students on the importance of beach safety and becoming a nipper. Over 22,000 students are reached every year by these school programs. All of the summer surf girls are volunteer surf-lifesavers, thousands of whom patrol our beaches protecting our local swimmers and tourists every year.

Belinda's home club of Surfers Paradise patrols Australia's busiest beach. Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club is a classic example of the work that volunteer surf-lifesavers do for the community. Last year the club performed 240 rescues, an average of almost five per week. To date this year the club has performed 151 rescues. Over the course of less than two years, 391 lives have been saved from the Surfers Paradise beach alone. I am staggered to think of how many lives would have been lost if it were not for the work of these volunteers.

This continues the fantastic record of Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club where, like many other clubs in Queensland, there has not been a single death between the flagged area since the club was established. Every year Surf Life Saving Australia is out in the community in search of funds. Next summer I urge all members and Queenslanders to dig deep for this worthwhile cause.