



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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### **SURFERS PARADISE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.14 pm): My wife and I were very pleased recently to attend the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club annual dinner. As usual, it was an interesting and very pleasant evening. The Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club has enjoyed some wonderful success over the years and has kept the Surfers Paradise beach very safe. Considering it is amongst the busiest and most well-known beaches in Australia, that is a wonderful achievement, aside from the marvellous competitive results that the club has enjoyed over the last decade. When I say 'busy', that is no understatement, with 400 rescues in the last year. That is more than one rescue a day. When one considers all that goes into a rescue and the split-second decision making and training that is required for a successful rescue, more than one rescue a day is a big ask. When one considers also the fact that the vast majority of those rescues will be in summer, the task that these lifesavers undertake is truly remarkable, and I am happy and have always been happy to be associated with the club.

**A government member:** And the council lifeguards.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Yes, I would like to acknowledge the council lifeguards. They also do a wonderful job, and there were a number of council lifeguards at this dinner as well. Along with the 400 rescues, there were also 2,000 preventive actions. Again, when one considers the training to prepare for such incidents, the rate at which they occur is truly remarkable. It is just a great tribute to the members of the club. It was quite amazing to hear the number of patrol hours that a lot of these members do. The top 10 get awards. A lot of them spend their whole summer at the beach. It is certainly great, considering the fact that they are all volunteers and they put in the hours because they love the club and they love the place. It is certainly something which a lot of us get a lot of inspiration from.

The club started in 1925. It has a wonderful record with eight Australian club championships to its name, 113 individual Australian champions and 30 world champions. The Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club has been a pioneer when it comes to surf-lifesaving and has been quick to institute many initiatives that have been taken up by other clubs. One of these initiatives is the dawn till dusk patrols. Members may be aware of some incidents where tourists, unaware of the danger of the surf conditions, go early morning swimming before the patrols start and, unfortunately, there have been a number of drownings. Members of the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club took it upon themselves to do dawn till dusk patrols on the weekends for many years. But in response to a number of early morning tragedies, they have extended this from 6 am to 8 am on weekdays as well.

The club is certainly going through a bit of change, and after 80 years it is going along very strongly. It is trying to put plans in place now that will take the club toward its 100th year. I commend President Jon Neilsen and all of his team on a marvellous year and the building of a marvellous club. I look forward to my continued association with the club. As I have said to members in this House before, if they get the opportunity to give to the surf-lifesavers, please do. They do a marvellous job, and I commend all of the work that they do.

Time expired.