



Speech by

**Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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## **CURRUMBIN ELECTORATE**

**Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—Lib) (9.34 pm): Over the past month the Currumbin electorate experienced a number of festivities. On 23 March the Pines Shopping Centre at Elanora celebrated its 20th birthday with colouring competitions, \$20,000 worth of gift vouchers and service awards to a number of retailers and their staff who had clocked up 20 years with the centre. Those retailers included Change Alley, Travelworld, Coles, Healthpoint Chemist and Kmart, the latter becoming the only Super Kmart store on the Gold Coast. I would like to make special mention of local resident Allan Robertson, who has been employed at the Pines since 1988 and is a familiar friendly face to the thousands of shoppers who frequent this centre. I give the thumbs up to a great management team, which is headed by Stewart Breen who took over the reins from long-serving and popular centre manager Athol Cowan.

Wild Island, the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's first new attraction in five years, was opened on 3 April, which was a glorious sunny day highlighting the natural beauty of this oasis in the suburbs. Wild Island is an interactive adventure for children. It educates visitors young and old about predators and birds of prey. It would be a great idea for all primary schoolchildren in the south-east region to attend as part of their school curriculum. The CEO of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Michelle Monsour, and her dedicated team of staff and invaluable volunteers deserve vigorous praise for working so hard to realise their vision to get the sanctuary back on track as a thriving educational and tourism facility.

The next project for the sanctuary is a new wildlife hospital to treat the over 4,000 injured native animals that are brought to the 25-year-old sanctuary hospital's doors each year. As the only facility of this kind in south-east Queensland, the hospital is bursting at the seams and funding is needed desperately. It is a real shame that to date the Beattie government has not considered this unique attraction worthy of any funding. I urge the government to make up for its neglect by assisting with this deserving project.

On Tuesday, 27 March I was pleased to play a role at the opening of the Gold Coast Obesity Surgery Centre in Fred McKay House, which is part of the John Flynn Hospital complex at Tugun. This centre is a unique multidisciplinary facility and is the first in Queensland to offer a complete range of weight loss services under one roof, including services offered by a gastric band surgeon, dieticians, psychologists, nurses and GPs to ensure that patients benefit from a holistic approach to support their weight loss program. Obesity is an emerging problem of major concern for many Australians. The gastric banding procedure is proving effective in reducing comorbidities such as diabetes, sleep apnoea, high blood pressure and associated musculoskeletal pain.

National Youth Week commenced on Saturday, 14 April, with the in2youthfest held at Salk Oval, Palm Beach. Live bands, workshops, stalls and even rock climbing made for a load of fun for young people and their families. Throughout Queensland a wide range of activities are being planned, with help from the Gold Coast City Council and the Department of Communities.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to commend the Queensland ballet on its recent Gold Coast performance of the *Nutcracker*. This popular ballet is an escape to another realm with its elegant sets, myriad costumes and, above all, talented dancers. We are indeed fortunate to have our own ballet company, as there are only two state ballet companies in Australia.