



Speech by
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK; TOWNSEND, MS D

Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (11.59 am): This week is National Science Week and more than 45 state schools across Queensland have organised science activities, including science fairs and Science on Saturday events. The community's renewed interest in science aligns with state government moves to increase the profile of science in state schools, with programs such as the \$37.7 million Science Spark initiative that focuses on improving teacher knowledge and skills to teach science in years 4 to 7, being ably led in Far North Queensland by regional manager Adam Hooper.

Last week I presented a Community Service Award to Debbie Townsend, the primary science facilitator based at Gordonvale State School. Deb has recently organised National Science Week activities at Gordonvale and Aloomba State Schools. She was instrumental in Isabella State School obtaining a grant to run its science fair and the science expo to be held next week at Gordonvale State School. She has contributed to the excellent performance of the science program at Gordonvale and is accompanying students from Aloomba State School to the International Kids Teaching Kids Coastal Conference to be held at Caloundra in October.

Debbie has a long history of bringing science to the fore in the primary setting, previously at Hambledon State School and now at Gordonvale, where she has conducted extensive support activities to make science come alive. For example, she had the Gordonvale SES attend a lesson and had the students learn about the efficiency of different pulley systems by using emergency services equipment to rescue Jack, the training dummy. When not involved with science, Debbie is actively involved with Girl Guides and Brownies, a labour of love for nearly 50 years, and is the first aid officer at Ellis Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

The Science Spark initiative is offering great benefits to teachers and students alike and is helping to build Queensland's already renowned science community. Deb Townsend is a great example of why the initiative is so successful. She is a passionate educator, both in and out of the classroom setting. She has the spark to ignite passion in her students because she is always willing to go the extra mile to accomplish her goals.