



Speech by

**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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## **SUNSHINE COAST YOUTH SUMMIT**

**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.08 pm): Towards the end of 2009 it was an honour and a privilege to attend the Sunshine Coast Youth Summit as master of ceremonies. The event was hosted by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership and the Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, where the event was held.

The summit provided a forum for some 60 Sunshine Coast young people, aged between 16 and 24, who were heard on issues that are prevalent in the wider community. The focus topics, which were determined by a coast-wide survey of young people, included: substances and mental health, education and employment, accommodation and personal safety. The purpose of the summit is to inspire and empower the youth of the Sunshine Coast in discussing and developing solutions to issues they identify as important within their community and allow them to be heard by local decision makers and service providers. Those present on the day had some invaluable ideas and insights. I see this summit as an opportunity for the youth on the Sunshine Coast and as a pathway that prepares the future leaders in our community.

The summit may have been based on 'Kevin 07's' 2020 summit, but the difference is that this youth summit delivered. As a member of the Law, Justice and Safety Committee, which at the moment is conducting a public inquiry into alcohol related violence, I was pleased that other committee members were able to attend the youth summit and use it as part of our public consultation process.

I would like to congratulate Mr John Lockhart, who, after a long period in the acting position, has finally been appointed as principal of Kawana Waters State College. The parents and students in this school should be aware and thankful that they have such a quality principal and leader as Mr Lockhart in their school community.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of the former principal, Ms Jo House, for the work she has done at the college and congratulate her on taking up the new role of Acting Executive Director of the Department of Education and Training International, which oversees the international programs in our state schools. The international program at the Kawana Waters State College is one that has grown steadily over the last decade to now boast 62 mostly year 11 and 12 students that the school can cater for within the curriculum that is offered.

Christmas was a time to celebrate. Congratulations to Talara Primary College—an excellent year 6 graduation; Siena Catholic College—a very professional and heartfelt ceremony; Pacific Lutheran College—great voices in their choir; Chancellor State College—certainly a celebration of excellence; Kawana Waters State College—a plethora of students receiving excellence awards; Buddina State School—great singing by all year levels at the Christmas festival; and, finally, Meridan State College, who held their first karaoke Christmas carols. I thoroughly enjoyed standing there with Roz from the school and singing 'all I want for Christmas is a hippopotamus'. It seemed to go down well, and I have received an invite for 2010.

As we head into another school year, I conclude by wishing all of those who are fulfilling student leadership roles in their school community for 2010 the best of luck. I intend to do so in person by holding a recognition ceremony in my office for all of these new student leaders, because this will become an invaluable part of their life as they develop into the future leaders of our great state, Queensland.