



Speech by


**Desley Scott**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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## DREAM IT UP

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (9.20 pm): Hundreds of enthusiastic year 9 and 10 students converged on the Logan Entertainment Centre on Friday of last week, to enjoy what is now an annual event, Dream It Up, to be inspired, entertained, amused, uplifted and given a challenge to step outside of their comfort zone, strive for excellence, never give up and reach for the stars. Sixteen schools were represented and the entertainers and guest speakers held the students spellbound. Lewis, a great MC and entertainer, has amazing talents and instantly engages with his audience. Following the acknowledgement of the traditional owners by Auntie Betty McGrady, we enjoyed a wonderful rendition of the national anthem by the Woodridge High singers who then sang the Beatles song *Imagine* in their beautiful harmonies.

Having totally engaged the students, it was time to inspire. Stephen Dale, whose book has inspired thousands, related his personal story of his boyhood and then his 30-metre fall from a cliff where his body was completely shattered, splitting his head open. With serious spinal injuries his prognosis was grim. He was helicoptered out and it was thought he would die before morning. Following a long period in a coma and eight months in hospital, he spent 10 years in rehab. He tells of his decision that through his pain he made a choice to live. His is a story of great courage and will have had a profound effect on many of those students.

The audience was then treated to the remarkable talents of MC Kitch whose feats with a microphone are legendary. He also shared some personal insights. It was then time to meet Natasha Zuvela, actor, TV presenter and winner of the No. 1 rating spot on MTV for three years in a row. Now a mother, Natasha spoke of her earlier life struggling with dyslexia, then her fear of public speaking—which is how she earns her living today. However, the big highlight for the students was her relating details of her dream job when she took over at Australia Zoo in the Crocoseum when Steve Irwin was tragically killed. She became a snake catcher and croc handler. But Natasha's earlier life was quite tragic: she was sexually molested as a child; spent five years with depression; was in an abusive relationship; and attempted suicide. She is now a published author—her book *The Crocodile Effect*—and has overcome her fears. Her message is that nothing happens inside your comfort zone, rise above challenges and be extraordinary.

Dream It Up was devised by Peter Forday, Greg Dodge and Bill Richards and attracts a huge number of volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors and many teachers who all make for a life-changing experience for these hundreds of young people. A big thank you to all.