




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

ADJOURNMENT

National Tree Day

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.31 am): I wish to bring to the attention of the House some of the activities that were undertaken in the electorate of Toowoomba North in relation to National Tree Day. One of the visits I made was to a local school, Rockville State School, where I had the great pleasure of meeting a couple of the school leaders and planting a tree. The tree was a tuckeroo tree and forms part of the school's bush tucker garden.

School leaders Adam Marshall and Shaellen Tanzer both helped me in the planting of the tree. How I ended up with the tree was by going to one of my local nurseries, Antscapes in Mort Street, where my friend Tony works. He advised that the tuckeroo tree would be perfect for a bush garden at the school. So I went along to the school and we planted the tree. But I want to add a little more about the school at Rockville.

It runs a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, which was put in there by my Rotary Club a few years ago. It was a great thrill for me to get back to the school and have the principal, Simon Flint, show me around and run through the different activities that the children now undertake as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. I really hope the tree that I had the privilege of planting in the ground that day adds some adventurous foods for them in the future when it starts to bear fruit.

In addition to that, I had the opportunity to go to one of the escarpment parks, Redwood Park, on the edge of the range, right near where the current roadworks are being undertaken. There has been a lot of talk with various people in the community of Toowoomba in relation to the roadworks clearing all the trees. Obviously the roadworks have a lot of dirt to move out—400,000 cubic metres. But I assured the people at Redwood Park, including Hugh and Sue Krenske, that we would be planting some native trees on the site of the roadworks when they are finished, and that will actually form a really good connection for birds and butterflies and other things in the area with Redwood Park, where I had the privilege of getting involved with some of the local volunteers who had gone down there to plant over 600 native trees. That particular park is starting to be rehabilitated after having substantial damage done to it by weeds and then that was compounded by the flood event of 2011, ripping out some of the bridges and paths and other things.

National Tree Day was a great event in Toowoomba North, and I really appreciate all of the local people who got involved with the day.