




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Thomas, Mr D

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.20 pm): I am delighted and so proud to rise in the House this evening to report that one of our true local sporting heroes and Yeppoon resident, three-time Pan Pacific champion, three-time Australian champion, three-time state champion and three-time Central Queensland jujitsu champion, Mr David Thomas, is travelling to Los Angeles this month to compete in the world championships. At just 31 years of age, having played several sports throughout his life, David says that it is only through jujitsu that he has been able to learn so much about himself. The Yeppoon electrician took up Brazilian jujitsu just two years ago, but in only a couple of weeks time the talented sportsman will be representing the Capricorn Coast and Central Queensland in the world championships in Long Beach, California.

In October 2014 in Melbourne, David competed in the 2014 Pan Pacific championships and entered in four divisions: two in his 79 to 88.5 kilo weight class and two in the open weight division. David weighed in at 81 kilograms and was at times nearly 50 kilograms lighter than his opponents. He won gold in his own weight divisions and double gold in the open weight divisions, which totalled three golds out of a possible four. In the three days of the competition, David fought 14 times. He is now officially ranked No. 1 in the nation in both divisions. He also holds three Australian titles, three state titles and three Central Queensland titles in Brazilian jujitsu.

David says that his family has always been his focus and that Brazilian jujitsu gave him the ability to combine his love of sport with the loves of his life. Brazilian jujitsu, which is known as the human version of chess, is about strategy and staying steps head of your opponents. Davis says that jujitsu is something that helps him not only physically but also mentally by giving him confidence and life skills. He says that he is always learning and taking something away from every session.

On 27 March in Yeppoon, David's family held a fundraiser and I was proud to make a donation towards the cost of his trip to the world championships. I wish David all the very best at the world championships at the end of this month. In the eyes of Central Queenslanders, David is already a champion. They are so proud to support him on his journey. Achieving three Pan Pacific Australian, state and Central Queensland jujitsu championship titles respectively is an amazing feat in its own right. The people of the Keppel electorate wish David the best of luck in his quest to become the world jujitsu champion. We are behind him every step of the way.