




Speech By
Linus Power
MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Fleetwood, Mr P

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.01 am): Mr Speaker, as members of parliament we are lucky to be part of very special ceremonies and events in our electorates. Recently in June I was lucky enough to be part of such an event. The wonderful—and I mean it—Logan Village State School community invited me to share their ceremony to name the school oval the Paul Fleetwood Oval as a permanent memorial to former teacher Paul Fleetwood. With Paul's wife and family, hundreds of former students, current and former teachers and the wider Logan Village Community, including from the Logan Village Lions and historical society, we gathered on a bright clear day to share, to remember and to celebrate Paul's life. The day was filled with colourful tents, students singing songs and sharing stories with Principal Bunce, teachers who worked with him, his wife Kerry and others. It finished with the unveiling of a permanent sign and memorial to Paul Fleetwood. Paul was a well-respected teacher and sporting coach from 1995 to 2013 when, nearing the end of his teaching career, his life was cut short by illness. A former deputy of the Logan Village school told me that the hardest day of her professional life was to sit down with Mr Fleetwood's class to tell them the sad news that their teacher from earlier in the year had finally lost his battle for life.

I had only met Paul in passing, but it was moving to see the impact that this one teacher made on so many lives. His passion for sport, especially rugby and cricket, was infectious and his passion for the school community made a lasting impact on students. I spoke with one young man that still lived in North Street who was a former student. He was wearing the grade 7 class shirt from the 1990s that his class had made which proudly listed Mr Fleetwood as his teacher. Mr Fleetwood made an impact on him, got him involved in organised sport and was fondly remembered. Local councillor Don Petersen remembered how Paul Fleetwood helped many young people prepare for high school and life. Almost every Logan Village resident under 30 had strong memories of the contribution he made to their lives.

I am inspired by the community of Logan Village State School and by the way they recognise that a school is more than simply the fields, fences, play areas, classrooms and hall. It is, more than anything, made by the people of this community; the way they treat each other, respect each other, and in this case remember and celebrate one of their own. In a way, the Paul Fleetwood Oval is not just as a lasting memorial and legacy of Paul Fleetwood's public service and dedication, it is also a reminder to all of us in this place how dedicated our teachers are and how well respected they are in the community. Indeed, so many great teachers would deserve the wonderful accolades that Paul so deserved. It is not just the teachers, but the ambulance workers, the nurses, the doctors, the town planners and those others that serve the public in Queensland. We need to celebrate our public servants when they work as hard as Paul Fleetwood did to strengthen the community in which they work.