




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Keppel Electorate

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.55 pm): Domestic and family violence is not okay—not now, not ever. In order to spread that message and to celebrate women on the Capricorn Coast, the Keppel Bay Sailing Club held its inaugural Celebrating Women festival last weekend. The festival included a photography exhibition, artwork by local women and talented local women musicians. The photography exhibition includes a selection of photographs on display at Yeppoon Main Beach taken by local photographer Lou Shipway which features local men who stand up, speak out and act out to prevent violence against women. The exhibition was part of the Keppel Bay Sailing Club 'Celebrating Women' #canihelp event, which was launched on the 25th of this month.

Southport DV Magistrate Colin Strofield gave an inspiring and genuine speech to celebrate White Ribbon Day at the White Ribbon Day breakfast last week about his work in the Southport DV court. Many thanks to Belinda, Alicia, Karen, Chantelle, Janis, Ammie, Charlotte, Lauren, Deborah and the entire Rockhampton Women's Health Centre team for organising yet another outstanding White Ribbon breakfast.

Recently I was also honoured to be asked to open the 2016 Inclusive Technologies Expo at the Frenchville Sports Club. Inclusive technology has the ability to change someone's life and their quality of life. Technology is improving at a rapid pace, and it is wonderful that there are entrepreneurs out there who are committed to improving inclusive technology. There was a great program full of exciting and fascinating new technology, ideas and support in the space of inclusive technology so that people with a disability can work around challenges to learn, communicate or simply function better. Thanks to Julie Irwin, Des Ryan, Jodie Lord and Ben Cooke who all put the expo together. The 2016 Inclusive Technologies Expo is funded through the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and hosted by Community Solutions Group through the NDCO Program and the Inclusive Technologies Expo Steering Committee.

I also congratulate Farnborough State School's tuckshop convenor, Amanda McLardy, who was awarded the Convenor of the Year 2016 Award. Farnborough also took out the Top Ten Tuckshops Award and the Fruit & Veg Promotion Award at the annual QAST Tuckshop of the Year Awards. I visited Amanda and the Farnborough State School tuckshop recently and I was really impressed by the healthy menu that is very popular with students and teachers. The tuckshop is also removing plastic from the tuckshop servingware next year which is fantastic to see because plastic is so bad for our environment. Well done to Amanda, the tuckshop volunteers and Farnborough State School.

Finally, congratulations to Xavier Craggs, Yasmin Craggs, Jessica Keily, Audrey Collins, Minette Boyd, Ellen Walsh and Emily Keating, all aged between 11 and 14, who have been invited to join Australia's national children's choir—Gondwana. It is truly outstanding to have so many young voices from Keppel selected in this national choir. It was great to meet with the young vocalists. I shouted them ice-cream recently to wish them well on their trip to Sydney for the choir.