



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Kevin the Peacock**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (11.39 pm): I never expected to be talking about this tonight. It is with great sadness that I learnt today that Kevin the peacock, who has roamed the grounds of Dakabin State High School for the past few years, has passed away. While many schools have great kids, great teachers and a strong sense of community, Dakabin State High School is the only one that I know of that had a great peacock as well. Dakabin State High School has a great agricultural program and competes successfully in many state shows but never expected to be home to a peacock.

I am told that Kevin moved into the school grounds in late 2012 when things were quieter at the school, apparently seeking refuge after nearby Alma Park Zoo where he was living closed. Staff wondered whether he would move on over the holidays, but when they returned in January he was still there. A lesser peacock may have chosen to flee the chaos of hundreds of teenagers, but not Kevin. He stayed and made himself a home at Dakabin State High School. This is, of course, a credit to the students of Dakabin State High School and maybe the agricultural program. Even with hundreds of teenagers running around, they were the kind of teenagers Kevin still felt safe around and he chose to stay and make his home there. It is also a credit to staff at the school such as Sandra Kane and Tamie Hay, who took extra-special care of Kevin, ensuring he always had something to eat and something to drink. I am told that his favourite food was sunflower seeds and he had his own pigeonhole in the staff room. His favourite pastime was looking at his reflection in the mirror, especially when he was fanning his feathers.

Contrary to popular belief, he was not named after Kevin Rudd. He was named after a colourful bird called Kevin from the Disney movie *Up* by administration officer Nicole Baker. Honourable members may wonder why I am devoting time to talking about a peacock. Kevin was more than a peacock and his presence was one of the binding factors of the Dakabin school community. He became a symbol for the school and featured on the front of Dakabin's yearbook. As one staff member said, it was difficult to see Kevin and not be brought to a smile no matter how rough the day had been.

Special mention must be made of the RSPCA, who treated Kevin over the past few weeks when he sustained an injury to a talon. I am told the RSPCA refused to accept payment from the school for the treatment, but Dakabin staff and students then held a fundraiser and donated the \$500 raised to the RSPCA. I am sure that there will be some sort of permanent memorial to Kevin built at Dakabin and I will assist in any way I can. Not too many birds can get a school to raise \$500, move staff and students to tears and get a mention in the Queensland parliament. However, from all accounts, Kevin was a very special bird. RIP Kevin the peacock.