



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Queen's Birthday Honours**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.48 pm): I rise to talk about some Queen's Birthday honours for hardworking community members in Toowoomba. The first person I would like to talk about is George Williamson, OAM. George has been involved in the Lions Club of Toowoomba West for many, many years. In fact, he is the longest serving Lion in Queensland, with 57 years of service. He has been involved in the Carnival of Flowers, as have many of our service clubs in Toowoomba. If anybody visited FarmFest recently, he would have been out there serving food and involved in the food distribution. He has been involved in Camp Duckadang, which is hosted on behalf of the Toowoomba District Down Syndrome Support Group. Over his time in Lions he has received the 50-year Lions Club Monarch Award, he is a Lions International Life Member and a Melvin Jones Fellow.

The second person I would like to speak about is Doug Harland. Doug Harland OAM has been involved in Sunrise Way, which was a much needed facility in our community for many, many years. He has been involved as a volunteer for 13 or 14 years. It is a drug rehabilitation centre which was born after a public meeting in 2001 to address drug deaths and complications in our community. The facility is now up and running, but it took many years of Doug's hard work to do that.

The last person I would like to speak about is a good mate of mine, Uncle Darby McCarthy OAM. That sounds really good, Darbs. For him to have achieved such a goal is an amazing feat. Darby was one of Toowoomba and Australia's greatest jockeys. He has been recognised for his service to the horseracing industry on many occasions. He was a jockey from 1950 to 1991. He won the AJC Derby, the Epsom Handicap, three Stradbroke handicaps in 1963, 1964 and 1966, and all of those were before he even got to vote in Australia. At age 10 he rode in his first meeting, which was an unregistered meeting at Thargomindah for the Flying Doctors and the returned soldiers. He is an ambassador of Racing Victoria's Indigenous Scholarship Program; the current chair of the Toowoomba Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sporting and Community Association; he has a race in Geelong named after him; he was inducted into Racing Queensland's Hall of Fame in 2004; he is an elder of the Queensland Murri Court in Toowoomba; he is chair of the Downs Aboriginal and Islander Housing Company; and a member of the Toowoomba Regional Council's Heritage Advisory Committee. He is a good mate of mine and he works really hard in our community to make sure that young Indigenous people can grow up to be all they can be. He is a man who believed in himself and backed himself. To get an OAM is a great achievement, Darby. Well done!