




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Burdekin Men's Shed

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.18 pm): I want to take this opportunity to share with members a good news story from my electorate. The Burdekin Men's Shed was established in 2011 and fulfils an important role in the Burdekin community. I cannot speak highly enough of the 64 members and the work they undertake on behalf of that community. From humble beginnings the men's shed has grown to comprise five sheds which incorporate workshops and the sale of second-hand items. They have a veggie garden, and this year they added a number of chooks which has added a new dimension to the facility—and, of course, some much needed eggs.

The morning teas at the men's shed are legendary, and I have to say that it is a great way to spend a couple of hours in the company of members who have contributed so much to the community. Let us not forget the fellowship and support that the members provide to all members and visitors. I have absolutely no doubt that there are members of the Burdekin Men's Shed who owe their lives to the support and help they were given at this facility.

In collaboration with the men's shed, I have commissioned the members to construct a number of buddy benches that I intend to donate to high schools in the Burdekin electorate. These buddy benches will be rolled out over the coming weeks. I am sure that they will be well received by the school communities that have embraced the underlying message of antibullying. The quality of the furniture items turned out by the men's shed is extraordinary. I want to mention one item in particular that they are producing on an annual basis: a kids cubbyhouse. This particular item has become a major fundraiser for the men's shed. When you see the quality of the work that has gone into producing this cubbyhouse, you understand why.

Last year the Burdekin Men's Shed hosted the Queensland Men's Shed Association expo, and this year they are semifinalists in the 2017 Queensland Community Achievement Awards. This is just recognition for the excellent job they do in the community, focusing on men's health issues. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the men's shed members—in particular, members like Rob Ritchie, George Isaacs, Charles Ford, John Furnell and Noel Smart. Nothing is too much trouble for these gentlemen, and the work they do in the Burdekin community is certainly appreciated by all residents. I say to the Burdekin Men's Shed: well done and keep up the good work.