



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Pinaroo Roma Inc.**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (7.05 pm): I rise to advise the House of my constituent Mr Dexter Kruger who, in January this year, celebrated his 108th birthday with family and friends. I am advised that he holds the title of Australia's oldest man. Just a few days apart from Mr Kruger's birthday is that of another constituent of mine, Olive Reade, who also turned 108 years old this year. After holding the title of Australia's oldest man for over six months, Mr Kruger reckons he has been asked every question in the book when it comes to growing old. He attributes much of his enduring constitution to his love of writing and having published his 10th book, *Dexter at His Best*, in July last year.

Up until the age of 103, Mr Kruger lived on his own before moving into the aged-care facility at Pinaroo in Roma. Both Mr Kruger and Mrs Reade live at the Pinaroo aged-care facility, which is one of the only aged-care facilities in Australia owned and run by a service club, the Roma Rotary Club. Pinaroo itself has celebrated some success with the opening of another 10 aged-care beds in the new \$2.2 million Maranoa Wing. There is nothing easy about running or operating an aged-care facility and I commend for their dedication those who have served on the Pinaroo boards throughout the years. I particularly acknowledge Baden Waldron for his exemplary service to the aged-care facility.

There is something very special about Pinaroo. The community engagement that is present, from Rotary, families, staff and the community, absolutely sets Pinaroo apart from many other aged-care facilities. The Pinaroo Maranoa Wing received support from the now-closed Maranoa club, with over half a million dollars contributed. There were many public appeals and internal financial planning. The Maranoa Regional Council contributed. There was also much cooperation from the National Australia Bank. It was great to have Jason Coonan to officially open the new Maranoa Wing. In appreciation, the presidents' and associated presidents' honour boards from the Maranoa club will be located at the entrance to the new aged-care wing.

Roma Rotary Club members have steadfastly stood behind the Pinaroo board that operates Pinaroo, as have the auxiliary, families and staff. I commend the rotary members for their support of aged care over the years and the dedicated staff at Pinaroo: CEO Ian Murphy, Melanie Hoday, Angela Lorenz, Karen Dries, Leslie McCormack, Matt Densley and the other 47 staff who make Pinaroo a very special place for our community and our loved ones. Our population is ageing and, through Pinaroo, Rotary is hoping to meet the needs of the future. I thank them for their efforts.