




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Buderim Electorate, Schools; Sunshine Coast Lightning

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.00 pm): Today I rise to pay tribute to two remarkable students from Mountain Creek State High School and one inspirational teacher from Chancellor State College in my electorate of Buderim, all of whom received a Peter Doherty Award for excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education earlier this month. I was delighted to attend the ceremony at the Queensland University of Technology and congratulate Mountain Creek State High School students Connor Creevey and Angharad Gordon for receiving Outstanding Senior STEM Student Awards. As the minister mentioned earlier today, only 16 of those awards are given across the state. For two students from the same school to receive the awards is truly remarkable and it is a credit to Executive Principal Darrin Edwards.

At the ceremony, Darrin told me that he is incredibly proud of the pair, not only for their academic achievement but also for the valuable contribution they make to their community as leaders and role models, and for getting involved in as many extracurricular activities as they can. Both students are enrolled in Mountain Creek's highly regarded and sought after International Baccalaureate Programme and have participated in many local, state and national STEM competitions and camps, including the STEM Connect Programme at the University of the Sunshine Coast, which is another outstanding educational institution in my electorate.

Behind every great student there are many hardworking teachers and Chancellor State College teacher Simon Richardson was one of just four across the state to be named Outstanding Teachers of STEM. Mr Richardson works hard to capture the imaginations of his students with coding and robotics. A testament to his teaching talents is the fact that a number of his students represented Australia in Arkansas in May this year in the first Lego League Razorback Invitational. Incredibly, they came first in the Alliance Challenge, first for robot performance and second for design and innovation. Mr Richardson is also committed to training staff and students in coding and robotics at other public and private schools across the Sunshine Coast. He runs a range of robotics competitions, stimulating minds and generating interest in the rapidly developing technology.

In closing, I would like to quote the incredible Professor Peter Doherty, who said—

Learning to view the world through the prism of critical thinking and respect for evidenced-based reality is the beginning of wisdom. Those who do so successfully will be the leaders and heroes of our future.

I am sure that the House will agree that, with students and teachers like those I have mentioned, our future is in good hands.

Before I finish, I wish the Sunshine Coast Lightning all the best for their upcoming Super Netball Grand Final. The Sunshine Coast Lightning, under the leadership of Captain Geva Mentor, have performed magnificently to finish strong and make it into the grand final. The Sunshine Coast community will be united in their support of the Lightning as they look to make lightning strike twice and win back-to-back premierships this Sunday.