




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queen's Baton Relay

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.46 pm): With only 13 days until the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, tomorrow the Queen's baton arrives in Central Queensland. Having travelled 230,000 kilometres on a 388-day trip around the world, tomorrow in Rockhampton the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and I will meet the Queen's baton to signify the start of its travels through the Central Queensland region. It has been right across the globe and, finally, the Queen's baton is in Central Queensland in the lead-up to the games. We are on the cusp of hosting the biggest event in the state's history and the arrival of the Queen's baton in Rockhampton and Yeppoon will shine an international spotlight on our region and some of our greatest achievers.

Our Central Queensland baton bearers include the captain of the Pararoos, the Australian paralympic soccer team, David Barber; junior hockey player Elne Bezuidenhout; Marge Brown; Emilee Burness; Tanya Burnett, who has grown the Capricorn Coast Netball Association from a small netball association to one with hundreds of players that holds carnivals of regional significance on the Capricorn Coast; the 2017 Livingstone Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year and 2016 Pinefest Charity Ambassador Caitlin Buttenshaw; local tourism identity Grant Cassidy; Livingstone Shire Council 2017 Citizen of the Year Peter Conaghan; Molly Cottam; Cameron Cuskelly; Ellysia Davis; local businessman, volunteer and community leader Timothy Griffin; Lachlan Hinchliffe; Jackson Hughes; Cienna Joyner; a young local dad, journalist, cancer survivor and master Cancer Council fundraiser, Aaron Kelly; Olympic gold medallist and International Hockey Federation 2014 World Hockey Player of the Year, Kookaburra Mark Knowles; master archer and remarkable shooter David Malone; young traditional owner, native title holder and Darumbal man Antonio Mann; junior boxer Drayden Marou; local parkrun organiser Craig McCormack; Commonwealth Games champion and one of Rockhampton's greatest athletes, cyclist Kerri Meares; representing children who have endured significant childhood trauma, Suzanne Messmer; Glenmore State High School student, grey wolf and Australian Scout medallion recipient at scouts, Kaylah Pettel—Kaylah is currently striving for her Queen's Scout medallion in Venturers and is completing level 1 in abseiling, has completed a 60-kilometre hike and bike ride throughout the Caves district and is also well known in her school as a peer mentor and all-round achiever; Scott Neill, a local scouts group leader; Mathew O'Brien; Luke O'Donnell; local university student and athlete Jack Quinton; Bradley Richards; the adorable Alayna Schloss, who raises baby chickens and then sells them for \$5 each to raise funds for the RSPCA; Alayna's dad, Dion Schloss, who is an SES volunteer; former Camp Quality area manager Darryl Schneider; Commonwealth Games champion and racing identity Kenrick Tucker; university professor Corneel Vandelanotte; and Anglicare volunteer and board member Diana Wode.

On behalf of the whole community, I congratulate all of our baton bearers and wish them all the very best of luck.