




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Jenkins, Mr N; Buswell, Mr N

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.22 pm): ‘The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires.’ Those are the words of William Arthur Ward. I rise tonight to speak about two of our best teachers, who inspire the next generation every day. Teaching should be a profession to which our best and brightest are attracted. It is a difficult and at times thankless job, but it is one of the most important jobs. Two exceptional local teachers, in Mountain Creek State High School STEM teacher Chris Buswell and Buderim Mountain State School principal Neil Jenkins, were recently recognised for their exceptional performance.

Mr Jenkins was recently awarded the Griffith University Jack Pizzey Award for the Best Regional Principal of the Year. It is an award I was pleased to support and is a recognition of the standing in which Neil is held by students, parents, teachers and the broader Buderim community. Teachers from Buderim Mountain State School regularly tell me that under Neil’s leadership the school has a collaborative, caring and high-achieving culture. Neil goes above and beyond. Most afternoons, Neil can be found assisting children to safely navigate school pick-up along with other teachers from the school.

Neil is very committed and passionate about ensuring that the school inspires all students to work to the best of their ability and to be good citizens by displaying respect for others. It is through the efforts of Neil, along with the teaching and support staff, that Buderim Mountain State School maintains an exceptional reputation and is the drawcard for many who choose to move to the Buderim community.

Like Neil, Mr Chris Buswell shines as an example of what our students should aspire to be. Chris was recently awarded the Regional Showcase Teacher of the Year Award. Along with year 11 and 12 students from Mountain Creek State High School, I was lucky enough to sit in on an exceptional organic chemistry lesson organised by Chris. Working in concert with the University of the Sunshine Coast, Chris has developed a 3D and virtual reality experience that brings chemistry concepts to life. Chris explained to me that, through virtual reality animation, students are able to create lasting memories of the way complex molecules interact, which translates into improved learning outcomes. I will admit that I was a bit overwhelmed as I realised how much I had forgotten about organic chemistry, but the feedback from the students was universally positive. The event was all part of a ‘keeping it local’ program developed by Mr Buswell to highlight the study and research opportunities that are open to students on the Sunshine Coast at their local university.

Teachers like Neil Jenkins and Chris Buswell inspire the next generation each and every day. I look forward to attending the state Showcase Awards Gala Dinner in October where both Neil and Chris are contenders for statewide awards and where we will celebrate their achievements.