




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate, School Leaders; Queensland Day; Queensland Greats

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.21 pm): Recently, I welcomed to parliament school leaders from Mary MacKillop College along with Deputy Principal Narelle Dobson for a school leaders lunch. As the local member, it is always a great privilege to invite young leaders from my community to share their ideas, values and reflections on leadership, on youth and on politics in this place. College captains Grace and Aoife were intelligent, engaging and mature beyond their years. I know they will lead and serve the proud Mary MacKillop College community with distinction this year. Likewise, earlier this year it was a pleasure to host the captains of Earnshaw State College, one of three high schools in my electorate, and I look forward to welcoming student leaders and Principal Peter Fullagar from Nudgee College in the coming sitting weeks.

From senior school leaders to primary school students, yesterday I had the pleasure of welcoming year 6 students from St Pius, Banyo to the parliament. As well as spending time in the gallery, the students received a tour of the precinct and asked wonderful questions about the building, the mace and other Westminster traditions followed by a big group photo and hug, which is always my favourite part of the visit. I hope they had a wonderful time and I look forward to seeing them back at St Pius again soon.

Last week, we celebrated Queensland Day and our 160th birthday as an independent colony. Each year in my local community the Banyo District Community Group organises a citizenship ceremony and community fair to celebrate Queensland Day and what makes Australia unique as a nation and Queensland the best state in our nation. This year, 25 excited northsiders took their pledge and became Australian citizens. I believe that Australians take citizenship very seriously, because it is very precious. Although we may have our moments and, unfortunately, a few divisive public figures, our country is, in the most, a tolerant and welcoming country only enriched by the diversity of its people.

Saturday's citizenship ceremony was followed by a community celebration of Queensland Day, complete with entertainment by local musicians and school string, stage and big bands from St Pius primary school, Earnshaw State College and Nudgee College. Community groups, which are so often the heart of our local communities, baked, crocheted and barbecued up a storm to make sure that the community had an array of craft and food items to purchase. I want to give a special thank you to Banyo District Community Group president, James Sparkes—who undoubtedly would want no thanks but heartily deserves it—for organising a fantastic community day. I also thank the volunteers of the Banyo District Community Group, including Reg Neil, Robyn Morris and Shane Warhurst, who all lent a hand on the day. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Banyo RSL, Meals on Wheels, Virginia Golf Club, Earnshaw State College, St Pius primary school, the Northgate Local Ambulance Committee and the Nundah Lions, which all had a presence on the day.

In the time remaining to me I would like to make mention of the eight recipients of the 2019 Queensland Greats award. I think that is a wonderful tradition. My recollection is that it is now in its 19th year. I would like to make special mention of a dear friend of mine Bob Atkinson, a former

Queensland police commissioner, who was rightly acknowledged as one of those eight recipients. I think Bob Atkinson is a man of incredible integrity and generosity of spirit. He is someone whom I admire tremendously. He could not have been more worthy.