




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Bonney Electorate, Local Legends

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the many people in my community who stepped up during this pandemic period to help those around them. I ran a Local Legends competition to honour those who went above and beyond. I received over 70 nominations and want to give the recipients a shout-out in parliament for their actions.

Joseph Prospere from Study Gold Coast and Hussain Baba from the Islamic Society, along with their organisations, provided thousands of meals to international students and others doing it tough. Cornelia Babbage and her team at MFO did hundreds of birthday drive-bys delivering presents to children stuck at home. Laura Fullarton created the Facebook page 'Got Your Back—Gold Coast', with its now 10,000 followers, giving a place for people to request and get help from community members.

Working with those doing it tough we had both Amber Ford and Ru Taylor helping the homeless. Amber also worked with victims of domestic violence and the elderly. From our schools, we had Julie-Anne McGuinness, Principal of Musgrave Hill State School; Murray Gleadhill, Principal of Coombabah State School; and Cheryl Rowe, the Deputy Principal at Labrador State School. Jarlath Scannell and Elaine Whybrow at Southport State High School were also nominated for their passion for their students' learning. Shannon Lataxes is a cleaner at Labrador State School. Zoe Lowe is the beloved Arundel State School wellbeing teacher. Carol Sproule has been looking after the sick bay at Arundel and Sally McWilliams runs the tuckshop brilliantly at Musgrave Hill. All are highly valued members of staff who have shown compassion and care to their school communities during this time. Janine Victor, whilst also being a teacher, also rents out party hire goods and donated a frozen party to a family with foster kids who had never had a proper party.

Maree McIntosh runs Specialcise, offering personal training for kids with special needs. Deb Frugtniet, the local publican at the Arundel Tavern, cared for her staff and community as it underwent a massive renovation. At local Thai restaurant and cafe Thaiger, Ben and Mickey donated meals to struggling households which I was proud to deliver myself.

Jenna Schroder is a Labrador legend. Even in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* today, she talked about the city plan. She created the 'Labrador 4215' Facebook group which encourages a fantastic sense of community in this very special suburb. Samuel Heijst is a nurse at GCUH. His nominee said of him—

He's possibly the greatest human I've met and gives out way more than he receives.

Denise Bills from Musgrave Soccer and Bruce Curtis from Labrador Hockey, the mighty Tigerstix, dealt with all the restriction changes for sports, and both have volunteered in their roles for many years. Byron Bindley is a local JP who offered his services when many other JPs had to stop offering theirs. Finally, Krystal Cooper works in aged care and took in another family who were escaping a domestic violence situation. All of these people selflessly cared for others. I am proud to represent and acknowledge them as champions of our community.