



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Joyce Newton OAM Bursary

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.19 pm): I acknowledge in the chamber this evening Ms Mikayla Crouch and her parents, Darryn and Raelene. Mikayla is the 2021 winner of our Joyce Newton OAM bursary. To that end I also acknowledge here this evening two of Joyce's children, Jen Tunley and Carl Newton.

Joyce was not only my friend but also an amazing community advocate who sadly passed away in 2018 from motor neurone disease. She lived and breathed community. She was passionate about agriculture, about learning, about our future generations and about civic society. Mikayla has demonstrated a similar passion. Raised on a Mount Mee dairy farm, Ms Crouch is keen to pursue a career in agriculture and environmental sustainability to show the world that farmers love and care for their environment. She has already paired the two, raising money to protect the glossy black-cockatoo across the D'Aguilar Range. Mikayla has also had an incredibly successful academic and cultural experience at Pine Rivers State High School, winning numerous awards and serving this year as school captain. She is in the middle of final exams as we speak. I will never forget Jen's comments after we had interviewed Mikayla: 'She's just like Mum.'

This year's bursary recipient saw some tough competition—so much so that alongside Mikayla's \$1,000 bursary the panel decided to award two runner-up bursaries of \$750. For that I am incredibly grateful to my other guests this evening and the third member of our interview panel, Sandy Zubrinich of the Sunshine Coast Business Council. Sandy convinced both the business council and the Food and Agribusiness Network to co-sponsor the runner-up prizes. Sandy is joined tonight by her granddaughter Kiaja. Those runner-up prizes went to Mr Leo de Clara of Beerburrum, who is school captain at St Joseph's Nudgee College, and Chelsea-Ann Johnson of Peachester, who just happens to be school captain at Glass House Christian College.

As members can see, we are spoilt for choice in Glass House with so many outstanding young people. Leo was immediately likeable, confident, balanced and we loved that he was committed to contributing his university experience back into the region and into farming. Leo believes his studies in finance and law will ensure future agricultural success in the region, and that is what sold the Food and Agribusiness Network. Chelsea-Ann was also seen as being decisive and knows what she wants to do with her life. She has a sense of humour and a sense of humility, is well grounded, appreciative of her opportunities and wants to make a difference in the lives of children, particularly disadvantaged children.

All three, I understand, have taken up the offer by the Sunshine Coast Business Council to act as youth ambassadors in some of the work they are looking to do next year. My friend Joyce would be so proud to see young people of the calibre of Mikayla, Leo and Chelsea-Ann awarded this bursary in her name. Our future is incredibly safe with young people such as these.