Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Kruger, Mr D

Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to acknowledge a very special event that is planned for Monday, 17 May when a new record will be reached by a resident of my electorate in Roma at the Pinaroo aged-care facility. Dexter Ronald Kruger will take the record for Australia's oldest living man of all time. Dexter will reach 111 years and 124 days, overtaking the record of the late Victorian Jack Lockett, who reached 111 years and 123 days. Dexter was up at 11.45 pm the evening before his 111th birthday earlier in the year waiting for the clock to strike midnight. I have no doubt he will do the same thing on Sunday night.

Dexter was born on 13 January 1910 at Bayview Terrace, Nundah. After his birth his mother carried him as a baby on the pommel of her saddle to join his family at Sheep Station Creek near Kilcoy. Throughout his life he has been a farmer, a passionate advocate for the cattle industry and later in life a writer producing 12 books and an autobiography that is waiting for a publisher. We are looking forward to this autobiography. I do know that the Premier has a number of his books and I hope she will also buy a copy of his autobiography. There will be some really good bush humour and some tall tales. I am sure the 'life and times of Dexter Kruger' will be a great read. I extend to Janet Rowlings and her family, who have helped Dexter, a huge thank you for all the assistance they have provided his family with organising birthdays, research and writing books.

Monday will be a momentous occasion for Dexter and his family at his home at Pinaroo. To the best of my knowledge, Pinaroo is the only aged-care home in Australia owned and operated by a service club, the Rotary Club of Roma. I say thank you to the Rotary Club and the Pinaroo board for the dedicated volunteer work that they do to operate this wonderful 71-bed aged-care facility. To Melanie Calvert, the CEO of Pinaroo, and the staff who take such good care of Dexter and many other aged-care residents, I say thank you.

Dexter has already become Australia's oldest person—at his 111th birthday in January this year. This on its own is a milestone of major distinction. He did so with good humour and humility and a wish for a bit of chocolate. His next milestone is no small feat and the countdown is on to Monday. Congratulations Dexter Kruger. You are Australia's oldest living legend of all time. Australia salutes you. You have the best wishes of the Queensland parliament.