




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast, Small Business

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.59 pm): Small business is the backbone of the Australian economy and nowhere is that more true than on the Sunshine Coast. There are more than 38,500 small businesses on the Sunshine Coast and, when considered as a percentage of the population, more small businesses reside on the Sunshine Coast than in any other region in Australia. The past 12 months have presented challenges to small businesses unlike any most Australians have ever experienced before. That is why it was great to see amazing Sunshine Coast businesses King IT, FarmRak, jpg signs and Murray's Cafe recognised for their success and commitment to our community at the inaugural Rotary Club of Mooloolaba Small Business Awards Presentation Night. The night recognised those four unique Sunshine Coast businesses and I too would like to acknowledge them this evening.

Calling the revolutionary Buderim business FarmRak a fish and chip shop seems akin to calling the Pacific Ocean a puddle. Chef and owner of FarmRak, Nattapon Chumchujan, is committed to improving the diets of Sunshine Coast locals by providing fresh organic food at an affordable price. FarmRak have built an aquaponics farm that uses wastewater from growing fish to fertilise more than 20 types of spray-free vegetables, which are harvested daily for consumption by many repeat customers at their restaurant. For Nattapon and his wife, Bella Kim, FarmRak is a labour of love, which is reflected in the name of their restaurant as the word 'rak' means 'love' in Thai.

jpg signs is another amazing Buderim based business that, since being established in 1989, has grown into a trusted local mainstay. Over the years, jpg signs has evolved and changed names as owner Jeff Patterson has tweaked jpg's business offering to keep pace with opportunities and changes in technology. jpg signs is a business built on teamwork and strong links to the broader Buderim community.

Murray's Cafe is another business that has survived the test of time, offering a family environment with a focus on genuinely caring for their many repeat customers. Aptly named after owners Kylie and Gav Murray, Murray's Cafe takes pride in providing sustenance for the body and soul. It is a recipe that has seen Murray's Cafe become the preferred local haunt for hundreds of Sunshine Coast locals.

The final recipient was Sunshine Coast IT retailer King IT. Only a couple of weeks ago I stood in this place and spoke about King IT and their partnership with DV Safe Phone, an amazing local charity that is doing tremendous work to support the victims of domestic violence. It is a testament to the strength of our local community when we have businesses such as King IT partnering with local heroes such as the founder of DV Safe Phone, Ashton Wood, to make our community a better place.

On behalf of the entire community I thank Mooloolaba Rotary for hosting their inaugural small business awards. Again I congratulate recipients Farm Rak, jpg signs, Murray's Cafe and King IT for their resilience, commitment to customer service and support to our entire community.