



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Coolum Lioness Club

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.18 pm): I would like to acknowledge the great work of one of the most enduring service groups in my electorate, the Coolum Lionesses. Recently the Lionesses celebrated 42 years of faithful service. Over that time 112 individuals have been members of the club. When one considers what the club has achieved, it is clear there has been some very busy and committed local stalwarts doing the heavy lifting for many years.

Sadly, late last year Lions Clubs International issued a directive that will force the closure of that club and all Lioness clubs around the world. Lionesses are now encouraged to join their local Lions club. Unfortunately, the work of the Lions and Lionesses clubs was never the same. Each of the groups did different things for different reasons.

Coolum Lionesses began their journey in 1978 and since then have raised more than half a million dollars. They have invested so much more than money into our community. They have freely given their time, compassion and hope for a better life for those less fortunate. Coolum Lionesses set big goals and reached them, raising money for the Coolum SES, Angel Flight, the Flying Doctors, CareFlight and many more. Above and beyond the humble sausage sizzle and raffle, the Coolum Lionesses have organised many events including their innovation, the Coolum Twilight Markets, which they launched in 1994 at Tickle Park. Wherever you needed them the Lionesses were there: Australia Day breakfasts, Meals on Wheels and even at the blood donation van. Their brief was broad and their hearts large.

The first official Lioness fundraiser in 1979 was known as the stretcher-a-thon and was run in partnership with the Coolum Ambulance Service. Participants wheeled a stretcher along David Low Way from Coolum to Bli Bli, asking for donations along the way. It is a great example of the group's unique fun and fabulous ethos, which has carried through to today under the leadership of their current president, Shirley Salisbury. Of the 15 current serving members two are foundation members, which goes to show how much living history is shared amongst them. Special thanks goes to Lioness charter members Grace Sharp and Mavis Somers for their service and commitment to our community. The Lionesses leave behind a litany of tremendous legacies such as the beach wheelchair at Coolum, which opened our beautiful beach's restorative powers to all. Through their support of the important work of the Coolum high school chaplaincy program, lives have been changed and futures brightened.

On behalf of the Ninderry electorate, I look forward to personally thanking the formidable women who make up the current and sadly last-ever Coolum Lioness group at a special morning tea I will be hosting on 19 May. I thank the Lionesses for their selfless service and assure them that each act of kindness will long be remembered in the hearts of locals and now in *Hansard*.