




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Firefighters Remembrance Day; Police Remembrance Day; Coolum Touch

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.06 pm): I take the opportunity tonight to update the House on some important events I attended in my community since we last met. No doubt other members attended similar events in their communities. The first one was on Sunday just gone when the member for Kawana, the member Maroochydore and I—and the member for Nicklin mentioned this last night as well—attended the Firefighters Remembrance Day ceremony, which I was proud to host in my electorate at Coolum on Sunday morning. It was an important day for them, as it is every year, but more important this year being the 20-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks and it has also been two years since we encountered some devastating fires in my electorate that moved into the Noosa electorate, known as the Peregian Beach fires, when we saw over 100 firefighters and 40 appliances work through the night to save not only properties but lives.

There was a local firefighter there who was actually on exchange in Canada on September 11 when the attacks occurred. He and others were raced down to New York. He provided a firsthand account of what he encountered, not on the day but shortly after. It really was harrowing. I think we all collectively—I am sure all members would agree with me—need to pay tribute to those firefighters such as the 400 who passed away on September 11 running towards danger as thousands of others were running away from it, as they still do all the time.

A week prior to that on the 29th, I and a lot of members on all sides of the House would have attended Police Remembrance Day ceremonies. I want to acknowledge Craig Hawkins and our new Assistant Commissioner Brian Connors for hosting us and the community at the Police Remembrance Day ceremony which was held at the Kawana Surf Club. It was another fitting tribute and a timely one with the passing of Dave Masters, who, as we all know, passed away in the line of duty during the year since the last Police Remembrance Day service, and also to share it with the family of Russell Sheehan, whom I worked with and who passed away prior to Christmas only a few years ago.

Again, like the firefighters, I think it is important that we often pause and acknowledge our first responders, whether they be police or firefighters, who every night and every day go out into the community. They put their lives on the line in service of the community and more often than not save or protect people they do not even know.

I want to put on record that the Sunday before last I attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the Coolum Touch Football Association, which is actually held in Peregian Springs. The current president is a former police officer I worked with who has recently retired. He has been the president now for seven years. Also present was Russel Doyle, who was the original president of the club 40 years ago, which really started from nothing and now has thousands of members. It is a really positive sport to have in the electorate.