




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Buderim Electorate, Volunteers

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (8.30 pm): Tonight I rise to recognise some of the stalwarts that make the Buderim community great. I start by acknowledging and offering my sincere appreciation, on behalf of the Buderim community, to Dr Russell Stitz who has dedicated his entire life to helping others. After five years at the helm, Russell has made the decision to step down as the chair of the hugely successful Buderim Foundation. I have previously informed the parliament about the contribution of the Buderim Foundation, which is the sixth-largest community foundation in Australia. Since it was formed in 2008, the foundation has provided more than \$1.2 million in grants to support the Buderim community. Organisations such as Riding for the Disabled, our local SES and local P&Cs are just some of the many groups that the Buderim Foundation continues to support.

I want to thank Russell for the essential role he played in growing the Buderim Foundation to what it is today. His charitable work is admirable, especially after a long career as a top Queensland surgeon. Dr Stitz is one of Australia's most prominent and highly awarded clinicians. While Russell will no longer chair the foundation, I have no doubt he will keep a strong presence in our community. On a personal note, I would like to thank Russell for his counsel and friendship since I was elected as the member for Buderim in 2017.

In the Buderim electorate we are very fortunate to have many great active community groups. I attended the annual Buderim Garden Festival over the weekend just gone. It was a true spectacle of spring, despite the rain clouds across the Sunshine Coast. I am always in awe of the blooms that our local green thumbs are able to grow and I thank them for sharing the results with the rest of our community. The hard work of volunteers and garden club members does not go unnoticed. The Buderim Garden Club was recently awarded the Outstanding Service to the Local Community Award by Garden Clubs of Australia. I cannot think of a more fitting award for those involved. There are around 750 garden clubs in Australia and it was great to see the Buderim Garden Club recognised for its long contribution to our community. That is another great example of how volunteers serve our Buderim community and make it a better place.

Lastly, I want to recognise the Buderim Library, which I am told is possibly the longest running volunteer-led library in Queensland if not Australia. Last week I joined the celebrations for the library's 135th anniversary. I want to give a special mention to the longest active member of the library, Sue Williams. She was Sue Edwards at the time she joined the library in 1956 and she still regularly borrows books, almost 70 years later. The library is run entirely by volunteers who keep the doors open for avid readers, six days a week. One hundred and thirty-five years is an incredible achievement and the library makes an incredible contribution to our community. It is nearly as old as Buderim itself. We are a proud community in Buderim thanks to the rich history being kept alive by our volunteers, just like those at the Buderim Library.