




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Coolum Surf Club

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.18 pm): I want to take this opportunity this evening to put on the record my appreciation for a fantastic community club in my electorate being the Coolum Surf Club. Mr Deputy Speaker, I know it is a club you would be familiar with due to your close family connections to my electorate. It was only a couple of years ago that I stood here and spoke about the centenary anniversary and celebration of the Coolum Surf Club, which started just over a hundred years ago back when there were no bitumen roads at Coolum and when there was only a handful of families living in the area. From that early start—those humble beginnings—last year the Coolum Surf Club was awarded the best surf-lifesaving club in Queensland.

Late last year I had the pleasure and was honoured to attend a number of retirement functions at the surf club for a number of key board and committee members of the Supporters Club, particularly people who have been pivotal in turning the club around. John Ellingson, the immediate past president who just retired from the committee late last year, had been on the board for 18 years. He is well known in the electorate and is a community champion who serves on the board of a lot of other community groups as well. He was ably assisted by Garry Green, the treasurer of the club for over 10 years, and Gary Barben, the secretary for over 10 years also. Due to age and longevity, all three of them have dedicated their adult life to the surf-lifesaving movement after 18 years, 10 years and 10 years respectively on the board of the Coolum Surf Club. When they joined the committee of the Coolum Surf Club 10-plus years ago the club was not travelling that well, but they surely have turned it around. Now there are over 500 active volunteer members of the surf club, and the Supporters Club that they have created donates over \$1 million every year back to the surf club.

Not only that, when I spoke to these guys at their individual retirement functions last year they told me that the best part of the job was the Community Benefit Fund that they had established while they were on the board at the Coolum Surf Club. Every year for the last eight or nine years that Community Benefit Fund has given out around \$50,000 every year to our local community groups like Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, St Vinnies, Coolum HeARTS and others that I am sure, if you do not mind me saying, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, your mum has a close connection to. The Coolum surf lifesaving club has supported those groups as well, so these career surf-lifesavers who have dedicated over a decade of their time to turn Coolum Surf Club around has meant that our broader community has benefited and so have all of the residents and visitors who visit Coolum. In saying that, I want to give a quick shout-out to the new incoming committee members—President of the Supporters Club Ernie Burrows, Treasurer Lee Francey and Secretary Shane Urban, who is also a well known community member. I wish them all of the best moving forward.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): She has volunteered for three out of those four groups you mentioned. If you are looking for a great place for a chicken parmi, the Coolum Surf Club is the place to be.