




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Electorate; Air Force Cadets 222 Squadron

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.06 pm): Air Force Cadets 222 Squadron has landed at Foxwell State Secondary College in 2022, 80 years after it was formed on 1 October 1942. They were originally housed at The Southport School, when 15 borders joined the corps and headquarters were established under Commanding Officer Mr CJ Chandler. The first graduate, GAP Ricketts, earned his wings with the Royal Australian Air Force in Canada in early 1944. Many cadets went on to serve in the RAAF and many gained their wings under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Last Sunday my wife and I took great pleasure in attending Foxwell for the inaugural Banner Blessing, Dedication and Presentation Parade. I must say that it brought back memories for me as a 15-year-old on the parade grounds at HMAS Leeuwin in Fremantle in 1969. The 222 Squadron has seen excellent growth over the past two years with an intake in 2022 of 52 new members, taking the squadron's strength to 82 cadets. It was exciting to hear that the 222 Squadron will be permanently housed at Foxwell. I can see this partnership being a huge benefit to the squadron, Foxwell and the northern Gold Coast community as a whole.

Recently I attended Ark Gala Evening, a fundraising event for a very worth charity. I donated a beautiful piece of memorabilia titled 'Against all Odds—the Battle of Long Tan' that I am pleased to say fetched \$1,600. The founders of the Ark, Simon and Xenia Schembri, arrived in Australia in January 2010 with their blended family. They left behind a traumatic life but, in their own words, still had many challenges to face. As they settled down, they discovered there was definitely a need to continue what they started in the UK. They say they have had the privilege of working with many families and at the present time have more than 90 families on their books. To me, a quote from the Helping Hands Program on the ATA website sums up what they are trying to achieve in their work: Families in crisis—we cannot change the past, but together we can change their future.

As Christmas approaches, community groups on the northern Gold Coast are hard at it spreading cheer far and wide. The Rotary Club of Ormeau Pimpama and Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade will be doing their annual Santa Run. The Ormeau Lions are selling Christmas cakes and puddings at Bunnings and doing the barbecue at Movies Under the Stars at Pimpama. The Rocky Point Rural Fire Brigade is having their community Christmas party this coming Saturday. Steps 4208 is hosting their annual Christmas Gift Appeal. The Highway Christian Church is hosting the Northern Gold Coast Carols on 11 December. The Volunteer Marine Rescue is having their Santa Run and handing out tide times and lollies for the kids. Christmas cheer is alive and well in the state seat of Coomera.