



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Morish, Mrs J

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.55 pm): It is rather fitting that I rise tonight following a week celebrating International Women's Day to reflect on the life of an extraordinary woman, Mrs Joane Morish of Woodford. Time does not permit me to expand on Joane's early life. Suffice to say: born in 1934 and trained as a teacher, Mrs Morish transferred from a school in Trinity Beach, Cairns to Woodford in 1973. It was the last transfer she undertook, finishing her teaching career at Woodford P-10 State School 43 years later in 2016. Doing the maths, Joane literally influenced thousands of students at Woodford. In some cases she even taught three generations of the same family. She passed on her love of teaching and passion for students to hundreds of colleagues over the years.

There are so many highlights, so many memories that speak of Joane Morish: her immersing of the school's Koban Japanese visitors in all that was Aussie: twigs of wattle, kangaroos, koalas and lamingtons, and field trips to Elvis Parsley down the road at what was the institution Grapeland; her love of debating, researching, training, even transporting students and staff in her own vehicle to wherever the competition would take them—you would not see that these days—her enthusiasm for sport and sports days, her beloved Stanley House, the team in yellow, of netball, of vigoro in which her team won the state titles in the mid eighties; her dedication in ensuring students could swim, even if it meant learning to do so in Reg Walker's dam across the road from the school—oh how our workplace health and safety and risk assessment procedures have changed!

There was the Lions Youth of the Year, Joane's encouragement of the students at Woodford to just get in there and give it their best shot, to work outside their comfort zone. There were so many enjoyable evenings with our local Lions, councillors, members of parliament and special guests. But always sitting in the mix was Joane, eager to fine-tune what the judges were looking for and get that feedback to the many students she mentored.

In the classroom she delivered many a lesson around history and the wartime and she discussed the old bunker on the oval. Students would listen in amazement as she brought the history of Woodford and the world to life. Joane would reflect on the good old days when there seemed to be more time in the curriculum for school musicals, plays and concerts. Of course, Mrs Morish could not contain her excitement when her beloved donkeys were illustrated in the beautiful children's storybook *Hullabazoo!*

As time moved on and Joane had to give away teaching, she continued to visit her beloved Woodford school, a place that brought her joy and peace. Right to the end she would take up residence in the old dungeon, the archive room, and shuffle through boxes full of school history. Teacher, mentor, coach, friend to so many, a legend, a true Woodford treasure, Mrs Joane Morish passed away on 12 February 2023. Her funeral service was fittingly held at the Woodford P-10 State School on 25 January. It is the consensus of everyone in Woodford and surrounds that Joane is up there now getting everyone moving and exercising and running sports carnivals, musicals, debating and public speaking competitions. Joane would be in her element. Rest in peace, Mrs Morish.