




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Small Business Awards

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to celebrate and commend the many fantastic businesses in my electorate. Our fantastic local small businesses have been the talk of the town recently, it being Stretton Small Business Month 2023. It is a time when locals can vote for their favourite small businesses. Competition was fierce, with many fantastic nominations. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners. Many of the small business owners in my community are from diverse backgrounds, and they have come to my area looking for a place to settle and work to support their families. They are succeeding, and I want to recognise them in this place.

In the health and fitness category the winner is Anytime Fitness, Sunnybank Hills. It is just behind my office. It is a very popular gym with friendly staff who are doing their bit to keep locals fit and healthy. The trade and services winner is Battery Central, Acacia Ridge, a family business owned by Alan who credits his hardworking staff Kathy and Logan, who know their customers by name. It certainly shows—they have almost 400 five-star Google reviews. The beauty and hairdressing winner is Adrenaline Hair Studio in Runcorn. Like a number of winners this year, it is a successful home-based business. The owner, Sonya, has built up a solid base of loyal customers over many years and she enjoys working from home. For best restaurant it is none other than Lemon Chillies Indian Restaurant on Compton Road. It is a big favourite amongst locals, and it is of course home to the famous Kerala crab roast. I encourage all MPs to get out there and have a try. Congratulations to master chef Jijo Paul and his team for their ongoing commitment to deliciousness.

The best cafe is Jacobs Ladder, a family business run by a local Korean family. Some of the comments made by voters include 'they always remember my order' and 'they make us feel welcome' and 'they serve the best matcha in the area'. This category had stiff competition so well done to the team from Jacobs Ladder. The next winner in the retail and sales category is Rhia Jewellers, a family business run for 10 years by Madhuri and Abdul, who are also well known and appreciated for their customer service and community work. They are well-known Rotarians in the area.

In the education and support category the winner is another home-based business: Andrew from ABC Music School. Andrew teaches music to local students. He is also a local rock and roll legend himself, playing in a local mando-pop band—that is a Mandarin pop band—at the Old School Bar in Eight Mile Plains. He will soon be playing every week at the Alien Night Market in Underwood. Lastly, the winner of the best bubble tea goes to Peter and Angel, who run Gotcha Fresh Tea in Pinelands just next to my office. It is a big win for a competitive category. Congratulations to all of the fantastic local small businesses in my area.