




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

McCallum, Mr R; Benarkin State School

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.18 pm): On behalf of the South Burnett community, I would like to put on record my condolences and gratitude for the services to our community by Reg McCallum OAM. I know that the current member for Bundamba has a family connection to the great Reg McCallum. Reg McCallum, born in 1926, passed away suddenly on 24 January this year, aged 97. It was ‘suddenly’ because he was in full flight and spirits right up to his passing; he had taken himself into Nanango, had a cup of coffee with someone at the bakery, gone shopping at the IGA, then got himself home again. Reg is survived by his daughter, Libby, and remembered by a much loved community.

Reg McCallum served 40 continuous years on the Nanango Council—32 of those years as mayor or shire chairman. He was recognised in 2008 as the longest serving mayor in Australasia. Reg only retired in 2008 due to the amalgamation of Nanango into the South Burnett Regional Council. He was rightfully awarded an Order of Australia medal in 1989 for his services to local government. I can’t get over the long list of Reg’s contributions. He was a volunteer, seen at all Australia Day events, and he was very active in many community projects. He was patron of the Nanango Race Club; the third president of the longstanding club. He was a life member of the Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails and an integral part of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail’s formation. We have the Reg McCallum Park in Henry Street, Nanango. He was awarded South Burnett’s Citizen of the Year in 2009 at our Australia Day Awards.

He was a local legend, but he just liked to call himself a ‘bushie’. He was a true gentleman. It is difficult to comprehend his accomplishments, as he would always downplay his achievements. His name is synonymous with Nanango. He always remembered people’s names. He was incredibly generous with his time to me and my husband, Jason. Most of all, Reg will be remembered for his quick wit, friendly nature and hard work. He was a perfect gentleman. May you rest in peace, Reg McCallum.

With the remaining time I have left, I want to give a big shout-out to Benarkin State School. It has only 47 students. principal Kerry Christie and P&C president Belinda Bear worked hard to get a defibrillation machine on the wall of Benarkin State School. I want to give a big shout-out to the two school captains, Mikayla Bear and Koby Bear. Thank you so much, Deb, for the scones at the leadership morning. What a great school Benarkin State School is!