



Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2024

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Thuringowa Electorate, STEAMLabs Community Club**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (1.19 am): I would like to take this opportunity to give a special shout-out to STEAMLabs Community Club. Started by Mr Andrew Schubert, it operates in my electorate of Thuringowa. Andrew established the STEAMLabs Community Club to create a place of innovation and exploration for children with autism spectrum disorder. The club focuses on delivering a hands-on experience for kids and teens with autism to engage with science, technology, engineering, arts and maths—hence STEAMLabs. Andrew created the after-school program after seeing the way in which his son was deeply engaged in learning STEAM in a hands-on way. Sometimes people with autism may need a little more time to learn STEAM subjects, which in most cases cannot be given in classrooms. I am happy to report that the club has been extremely successful, with over 150 visitors in the short 10 weeks it has been operating. A core group of 17 children attend the program every week. I am looking forward to joining the group next week.

I have had the absolute privilege of meeting Andrew and his son Ethan, who were regular visitors during the election campaign to my stall at the Willows Rotary Market as fellow stallholders. It was a pleasure to have Ethan visit my stall. He always had a smile on his face and asked when he could be on the news with me. However, he made it without my help and got his own media, so I thought it would only be right to have his name recorded in the parliament's *Hansard* tonight.

In the short time I have left, I congratulate those in the mighty electorate of Thuringowa who have graduated from school this year and those who are moving into high school. As the House adjourns for the last time this year I would like to wish all Queenslanders a merry Christmas and a safe holiday period, especially for our frontline workers who will continue to serve Queensland over the festive period.