




Speech By
Robert Skelton

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Sandell, Mr SF; Pearce, Mrs SL

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (10.02 pm): It is my melancholy duty to inform the House of the passing of two of our region's finest. Fred Stanley Sandell recently passed away. He was 103 years and seven months. In 2021 Fred celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends, including co-workers, at the Nambour RSL. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, it was a joyous occasion. Family who lived in Canberra were able to fly in whereas family from New South Wales were not, but everyone had a lovely time. This was the first time I had met Fred, his lovely wife, Jean, and his large and beautiful family. Mirth, his daughter, shared many memories. One special memory was of their Rockhampton neighbour Ruby Locke, whose family brought her down. She too was turning 100.

Fred's birthday gift was a drive from Nambour to Bli Bli in a 1962 Vauxhall Cresta with a member of the Sunshine Coast Antique Car Club. He always loved his cars and would often speak about how his first car, a Ford Prefect, was affectionately called 'Little Beautiful'. I last saw Fred enjoying the Ashes test cricket when he turned 102. I am certain he would have been equally thrilled by the recent Olympics right up until his passing. Fred's funeral is tomorrow at 11 am at Gregson & Weight, Nambour. Unfortunately, I cannot attend, but I certainly will be thinking of him. Fred may be gone in person but he will never be forgotten in our hearts. He was a true gentleman, a son, a brother, an uncle, a loving husband and an adored father and grandfather. He was a community champion, and his enduring legacy is the wonderful family he has left behind to continue contributing to our region. Mirth said it best: 'a new star to shine brightly upon us until we meet in heaven'.

Sandra Lea Pearce, of Brady's Fruit at Palmwoods, passed away 9 August 2024. Sandra was the loving wife of Colin, a dearly loved mother and mother-in-law to Brendan, Matt and Tayla, and a cherished grandma to Hallie and Johnny. Sandra has so many connections from her commitment to our community. My wife, Agnes, and I will never forget the kindness of Sandra and Col as they helped us with flowers for our wedding. Sandra's funeral is on Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at 11 am. Everyone who is attending is encouraged to wear bright colours as a celebration of her life. She may be gone but she is not forgotten. Sandra led an extraordinary and happy life. It has been my great privilege to know these two wonderful people. On behalf of a grateful community vale, Fred. Vale, Sandra.