




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

National Volunteer Week; Cassidy, Ms S

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.03 pm): It is National Volunteer Week. I know I might be a bit biased with this statement, but in Buderim we have some of the best and most hardworking volunteers in Queensland. This week I have launched my annual Buderim Volunteers Awards which I am again teaming up with the Buderim War Memorial Community Association to host. I want to thank the new president of the BWMCA, Steve Budden, for being a part of it. We are now taking nominations for Community Group of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. We have some excellent nominees, and I want to see nominations from as many community groups as possible. I have a few examples of some of the dedication of our local volunteers.

The Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway group recently hosted a guided walk along the old tramway track which they maintain to ensure that our region's history is preserved. I can tell the House that rain poured down that day yet the volunteers forged ahead with the four-kilometre walk, ensuring a successful event, as they always do.

On the other side of Buderim, every Thursday morning a band of volunteers holds a 'busy bee' to maintain another important parcel of land, the EJ Foote War Memorial Sanctuary. Not only is this track used by members of our community every day; it also serves as the picturesque backdrop for the Buderim Remembrance Day service each year which, as the local member, I am honoured to attend.

Magnolia Health supports Sunshine Coast women affected by pelvic pain conditions like endometriosis. Volunteers held a walk for awareness through Buderim last weekend. They are doing incredible work for women's health in our community.

The Friday just gone was National Walk Safely to School Day. I want to acknowledge the Buderim Lions Club which have their own walk to school program. One day every single week, Lions Club volunteers walk groups of children to school at both Chancellor State College and Buderim Mountain State School to reduce congestion around the schools and promote a healthy lifestyle for our kids.

This Sunday, we have the Dog's Day Out in Buderim. It is a popular festival for pet owners and is organised and run by volunteers at the BWMCA and other community groups. Much to the dismay of my four kids, I do not have a dog but many in our community do. It is a great event and I encourage as many people as possible to get along.

Finally, before I run out of time, I want to place on the record my thanks for one of my staff. All of us in this place know that we cannot do this job without our staff. Whether they are electorate staff or ministerial staff, it is our hardworking and capable staff who get us through the day and make us look better than we are. Sophie Cassidy, who is currently my senior ministerial media advisor, is going on maternity leave tomorrow. She has been my AEO, my EO and now my head of media. She is capable, hardworking and committed, and she is a great mum as well. She is going to enjoy her maternity leave but she will be missed.

Mrs Gerber: She's the real member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: She is the real member for Buderim; I take that interjection. If she ever runs against me, I am cooked. Sophie, enjoy your maternity leave and we look forward to seeing you back when you choose to come back.

Mr SPEAKER: I would also like to wish Sophie all the best. I have known Sophie since she was a baby, so I wish her all the best.