




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Community Champion Awards

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.21 pm): Tonight I want to acknowledge all of the nominees and award recipients from my community champion awards night held this month. It acknowledged some extraordinary individuals in the category of young person, community organisation, small business and teacher. I want this House to acknowledge the nominees and award recipients of those categories. For young person of the year we had Jemma Wagner and Amelie Austen. Jemma is a Coolangatta surf lifesaver. She has earned 97 patrol hours and assisted with water safety. She holds 45 association awards, has served as a leader at SLSQ's excellence program and is a driving force behind their sustainability. Amelie Austen is an extraordinary young role model and entrepreneur in our community. The winner of young person of the year was Lucas Berezwick. He was nominated by Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Club for his outstanding contribution to the club. He suffered some personal setbacks with an ACL injury, but that did not stop him. Rather than stepping back he stepped up. He obtained his silver medal, became patrol captain and volunteered over 43 hours.

Next we have small business of the year. We had three finalists in the small business of the year category. The first is Chef Frankie's, who brings Italian soul to our Currumbin community. He brings amazing Italian pasta. One of my favourites is his lasagne. The next nominee was Tugun Village Florist. Penny is a true community champion. Penny makes all of the wreaths that I take for events I go to, including Anzac Day. The winner was Made barber and barista. Josh and Britt are a powerhouse couple who do not just run a barber shop and a cafe but they pour their hearts into everything they do. It makes up the fabric of our community. I was so proud to acknowledge these amazing small businesses in our community.

The next was teacher of the year. Three teachers were acknowledged at my awards. There was Taya Lindner, Marie Turner and Vicky Straw. Taya and Marie are both from Elanora State High School. The students themselves nominated these teachers for the way that they have contributed to their lives. The winner was Vicky Straw from Ingleside State School. I want to read out what one of the students said about Vicky—

She has helped students at her school improve their academic performance with one parent saying Vicky has supported our daughter to reach excellence in her schooling beyond what we even thought was possible.

It is an amazing achievement, Vicky.

Next were the community organisations. The finalists were the Tugun Girl Guides, Elanora State High School's Leo Club and our Country Women's Association ladies. The winner was our Country Women's Association for the work that they do supporting victims of domestic and family violence.

Finally, we had volunteer of the year. We had Lisa Andresen from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Aylana Watkins from Tugun Girl Guides and Teaghan Hartigan—go the Currumbin Sheagles!—who was the winner.