



Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Laver, Mr B Sr; Rudd, Mrs J

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.22 pm): It is with great sadness that I rise to inform the House of the passing of two Mudgeeraba stalwarts and members of Mudgeeraba's foundation families, Mr William 'Bill' Laver Sr and Mrs Joan Rudd. The farmer from Mudgeeraba, Bill, and his late wife, Margaret, had a profound impact on our community. It is well known, of course, that Bill was an Albert shire councillor, as the local council was then known, from 1965 to 1994 and served as its chairman from 1982 to 1994. His service to our community can be seen across the city, from the oval at Carrara Stadium, which first bore his name, to Laver Drive in Robina, which reflects his significant contribution to the planning and development of our city. In fact, Laver Family Park, which was donated to the Gold Coast community by Bill, still boasts two persimmon trees which were planted by his father, William Henry Laver, at the turn of the 20th century when the property was first purchased.

To this day there are numerous scholarships at schools across the Mudgeeraba electorate thanks to the Laver family's Laver Schools Scholarship Fund, including year 6 scholarships for leadership, academic, cultural and sporting excellence, which includes a second instalment in high school if the student continues to excel in their studies. The Laver Schools Scholarship Fund has also announced a brand new scholarship, commencing this year, to support a deserving Robina State High School graduate as they commence their university studies—yet another example of the Laver family's continued generous support of our community.

A proud National Party member and then LNP member, Bill was always willing to share his wisdom and guidance, and I am grateful for his many years of kind words and insights. You could not mention Bill without also mentioning his beloved late wife, Margaret. An inseparable pair, both made significant contributions to local life, most notably through their involvement in the Mudgeeraba Show Society. Bill served as patron of the Mudgeeraba Show Society and was one of the founding members. I am proud to also serve as patron of the show, though I have some way to go to match Bill's length of service.

Similarly involved in community life, lifelong Gold Coast local Mrs Joan Rudd would be known to many due to her involvement in the Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum. The Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum aims to preserve historical material and artefacts which reflect the growth and development of the hinterland region. A member of the pioneering Duncan family, the original cedar cutters in Springbrook, Joan served as patron and president of the museum, working to preserve the rich history of our local community. Joan was a staple of the museum, warmly sharing the history of our local area with visitors at open days and volunteering tirelessly at the museum every Sunday. Every year I would attend the Anzac Day service with Joan. I always enjoyed our discussions and her in-depth knowledge about our community.

Joan was involved in all aspects of hinterland life including the Mudgeeraba Show, having previously been named Miss Mudgeeraba and Miss Hinterland in a heated competition against 10 other young women. She and her husband, Jack, were a constant presence in the hinterland, volunteering at events and for causes throughout the year. From the church and the show balls of the fifties, which Joan described as a great way to get to know most people in the town, her involvement with the Mudgeeraba Street Party and the Mudgeeraba Show right through to her service through the Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum, Joan constantly gave back. However, as was her way, she did not make a fuss of it, choosing instead to get on with whatever job needed doing, in her usual selfless manner. I am reminded of her belief that volunteering is the way communities do things. Her husband, Jack, shared a similar view that if you wanted things to happen, you had to volunteer to do it. Indeed, our community is richer for the selfless dedication of Joan and, indeed, her beloved Jack over the years and their community-minded spirit.

It is no secret that our community has evolved significantly over the years and families like the Laver family, the Duncan family and the Rudd family have been witness to it all. Our community is poorer for the loss of both Bill and Joan. My thoughts and my prayers are with their families and their loved ones at this time. Rest in peace. Vale, Bill Laver and Joan Rudd.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I pass on our sympathies to your community for their loss. Before I call the next member I want to recognise the seniors and teachers of Our Lady Help of Christians from the very important electorate of Clayfield.