




Speech By
Martin Hunt

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Nicklin Community Hero Awards

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (9.18 pm): It is a privilege to rise tonight as the member for Nicklin to recognise five outstanding recipients of our Nicklin Community Hero Awards—individuals whose service, compassion and leadership make our community stronger every day. Firstly, Carolyn Neville, a volunteer at Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled. Since volunteering from 2016 and serving as president from 2018, Carolyn has provided exemplary leadership of 130 volunteers, supporting more than 80 participants. Whether applying for grants, coordinating fundraisers or organising arena hire or second-hand equipment sales, she is constantly working to secure the centre's future.

To Rob Egel—a familiar and friendly face to many. I first met Rob as Santa Claus at our PCYC blue light discos in the early 2000s. Behind the Santa beard is a man who dedicated 15 years to the Queensland Fire Department. Beginning with the Rural Fire Service at Belli Park and later serving as an auxiliary firefighter in Kenilworth, Rob has stood ready to protect lives and properties. We thank them sincerely for his steadfast service to our local community.

Celia Drake is a passionate advocate whose volunteer work around Petrie Creek in Nambour has made a tangible difference. From leading platypus surveys and mentoring volunteers to founding the Sunshine Coast Platypus & Echidna Friends group of more than 1,000 members, Celia has inspired awareness and action. She conducts monthly water testing, removes rubbish on her walks and advocates for practical improvements in her local area. Though she shies away from recognition, her contribution is extraordinary.

Donna Hart is compassion in action. As a case manager at Lily House she supports vulnerable women daily and after-hours, always going above and beyond. At home, she and her husband foster four children, including children with developmental needs, providing stability, love and hope. Donna also facilitates parental visits and is studying social work to extend her service even further.

Finally, Chelsea Jenkins—a shining light for youth in our region. Chelsea began at the Nambour PCYC boxing program at just 15 seeking fitness and connection. Ten years on she is a permanent employee and dedicated volunteer. From participating in the CHAMP girls' mentoring program to becoming its facilitator, Chelsea now leads the very program that once supported her. Communities thrive because of people like Carolyn, Rob, Celia, Donna and Chelsea. We honour them today.