




Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.02 am): The southern Gold Coast is witnessing an events smorgasbord. From 11 to 19 April our world-class beaches of North Kirra, Bilinga and Tugun were inundated with competitors for the 2015 national Surf Life Saving Championships 'The Aussies'. Our picturesque foreshore is transformed into a mini-city, hosting the largest event of its kind in the world with over 7,000 competitors. I stopped by to see our homegrown athletes in action and witnessed crowd favourite Shannon Eckstein from Northcliffe and popular Liz Plummers from north Burleigh take home the Ironman and Ironwoman titles against fierce competition. However, it was the day before these titles that will be remembered by so many when the family spirit of surf lifesaving was well and truly evidenced in the open men's board rescue. The sensational win of father and son Trevor and TJ Hendy was applauded by all. Trevor was still buzzing from the experience when I saw him the next day. Congratulations are also in order to Louise Bezzina and the Bleach Festival crew for putting on another creative festival.

Right now Coolangatta turns up the music, cars and everything fifties with Cooly Rocks On. Gail O'Neill and her team have put in a terrific effort again for this year's event. Animals with Attitude is an initiative that sees funds raised for Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Hospital whilst raising awareness of our native wildlife. Last Friday evening over 400 supporters gathered at Jupiters to bid for giant hand-decorated fibreglass koalas, silent auctions and raffles. Their generosity is to be commended. However, I once again place on record my deep disappointment that this Labor government refuses to recognise the wonderful work of staff and volunteers who treated over 8,000 injured wildlife last year by refusing assistance of \$450,000 over three years. The Premier recently gained media attention declaring the koala as vulnerable in Queensland, yet she fails to give Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary a single cent to care for them, whether injured or healthy.

I was delighted to be with Samantha Way and her team at Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre for their 25th anniversary last month to celebrate this significant milestone. The centre provides an invaluable service to our local community, touching the lives of approximately 4,000 people each year through services including child, youth and parent counselling, community computer-internet, financial counselling, tax help, money management workshops, personal development programs and more—all delivered in a caring and supportive manner that makes an enormous difference to the outcomes achieved. I was pleased to be able to purchase a new laptop last year which I understand has been put to good use, and I look forward to the centre continuing to grow and service the southern Gold Coast for the next 25 years. Events in Currumbin book out our hotels and motels for miles along the southern coastal strip, and our hospitality and retail industries benefit from the visitor boom and the welcome from locals.