



Speech by


**Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

Hansard Tuesday, 22 March 2011

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## **COOLANGATTA-TWEED HEADS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB, CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.03 pm): The Currumbin electorate is home to eight of the 11 surf-lifesaving clubs in the Point Danger branch. This evening I wish to pay tribute to the phenomenal services they provide in a volunteer capacity patrolling our beaches and saving lives. We have much to thank them for, be it on Christmas Day when they selflessly perform their duties on our foreshores and in our surf or with their collections for their clubs.

On Saturday, 12 March my husband and I attended the Tweed Heads-Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club centenary celebrations. Notably, Tweed Heads-Coolangatta is Queensland's first surf-lifesaving club and they are darn proud of it. Established in 1911 this now historic club started, like many distinguished Gold Coast icons, as a wooden shack, with the current two-storey heritage listed building representing the club's remarkable transformation over the years.

This club is situated on what is now known as the famous Greenmount Beach, which plays host to hundreds, if not thousands, of holiday-makers and locals every weekend. To their credit, in the club's 100 years of patrol, there has never been a life lost on their beach. The first ever surf rescue in Queensland was performed on this beach in 1909.

The Premier was invited to attend this auspicious ceremony—this momentous occasion in Queensland's history, as it was. She left it until the last minute to advise the organisers of the event of her unavailability to attend and did not bother to send anyone in her place. So late was her apology, she still appeared on the running sheet for the evening's proceedings as a speaker, causing the absence of anyone from the Queensland state Labor government to be noted by all in attendance.

Included in the evening's celebrations was recognition of the clubs legends—their life members who had wonderful tales to tell. Nostalgic photographs of times gone by adorned each table. Edie Winter and her girlfriends joined the club in 1922. She earned a bronze medallion—the first woman to do so—but she had to wait until 1991 to be presented with her medal as women were not allowed to be surf-lifesavers.

I congratulate Mr Alan Hickling, who was the centenary committee chairman, for his team's efforts. I give special acknowledgement to president Rod James, who puts his heart and soul into this club. As well, I would like to mention the centenary book author Brian Styman.

I want to congratulate the Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club on winning two awards at the Queensland Clubs Awards for Excellence. They won the best surf-lifesaving supporters club and the best club on the Gold Coast. The Currumbin RSL was awarded the EC3 Global Environmental Best Practice Award. Currumbin is home and host to not only some beautiful surf-lifesaving clubs but valleys, parks and the best little club in the world in the Currumbin RSL. It is also home to some people who went out of their way to show the charity in their hearts to our flood and cyclone victims.