



Speech by

CARRYN SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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MOOLOOLABA COAST GUARD; BRIBIE ISLAND VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.48 p.m.): I rise to advise honourable members that last Saturday evening I attended the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Mooloolaba Coast Guard, representing the Honourable Mike Reynolds, the Minister for Emergency Services. When I was introduced by the MC, Vice Flotilla Commander Greg Chatfield, he suggested I drew the short straw by having to come all the way from Bribie Island to the Mooloolaba Yacht Club to represent the minister. I suggested that I did not draw the short straw at all, as the Mooloolaba Yacht Club was indeed a most magic place to be and the perfect setting to hold the local Coast Guard's celebrations.

It was a privilege to address this most dedicated group. From humble beginnings in 1976 with a caravan and a 21-foot rescue vessel on a trailer, in 2001 the group boasts a two-storey building, including a marine radio base and 13 and eight-metre monohull rescue vessels—about \$1 million of community property. Many of the members are long-serving volunteers and, as it is the International Year of the Volunteer, it is fitting to recognise some of those who I met during the evening.

Captain Ken Bromback, who is the State Council Chairman, has served for 17 years, followed closely by QF6 Commander Don Matthews, who has served 15. I was proud to meet Roy Edney and Ernst Pruegl, who have been involved in Coast Guard activities both in the local association and other areas for 25 years. What motivates these men and others to man the base for seven days a week, 24 hours a day monitoring airwaves, manning rescue boats, fundraising and paperwork is purely personal satisfaction knowing that what they do is indeed worth while in their community.

It was very satisfying to hear all the Coast Guard members acknowledge their partners and the work they do and the encouragement they give behind the scenes. The electorate of Pumicestone also benefits from such dedicated volunteers in the local Volunteer Marine Rescue. This group, too, had its humble beginnings 25 years ago. It was started by a group of fishermen and operated from a veranda of one of the volunteer's homes. The 21-foot aluminium monohull rescue vessel was housed at the residence of Darryl Gatehouse, who later became a commodore. Prior to the purchase of the rescue vessel, local fishermen like Darryl used their own boats whenever the water police needed them. Like the Mooloolaba Coast Guard, the Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island Inc. has 120 active members with radios operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I am told that Mr Greg Shay and Mr Peter Raymont are two of the longest-serving volunteers, clocking up 20 years, followed closely by many others including Ted and June Parker, with 16 years. I am very proud to know these volunteers and I congratulate them on the work that they do on behalf of a grateful community.
