



Speech by

ROSA LEE LONG

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

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VOLUNTEERS, TABLELANDS ELECTORATE

Ms LEE LONG (Tablelands—ONP) (1.09 a.m.): As the Year of the Volunteer draws to a close, it was my pleasure to acknowledge some of the local tablelands volunteers at a function on Saturday, 27 October 2001. It goes without saying that no region, large or small, can survive without them. Volunteers help in all kinds of manner. Some help singularly while others work in teams. The awards we presented were to those who were nominated because they were recognised for their service to the community over and above the call of duty.

We are fortunate in the tablelands area to have a large number of very dedicated people who are always there to help out in times of need, and the needy are always there, whether it be a sporting team, the elderly, the disabled, fighting a fire—the list goes on; it is a part of life. A number of group nominations were received, including the Atherton Neighbourhood Centre, the Filipino Australian Society of the Tablelands, Meals on Wheels, Railco Atherton, Herberton and Ravenshoe, Ravenshoe Visitors Centre and the QCWA Yungaburra and Atherton branches.

There were numerous nominations for personal volunteering. The selection committee chose 20 of these nominees to receive medallions. I would like to mention just a couple of outstanding people in this group. Mrs Marjory Hamilton has dedicated 40 years to supporting the tablelands scouting movement. At 73 years of age, she is still very active and holds various positions within the scouting movement. She is on the management committee of the Barrabadeen scout camp site. Marj assists the group leader and support committee for any events held under the district commissioner's direction and is an adviser on scouting matters for the tablelands district. She is also acknowledged for her huge contribution to horticulture in the tablelands area. Marj Hamilton is most worthy of recognition.

Another of our well-known local identities is Des Day. Although a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic for some 30 years, Des does an enormous amount of volunteer work. Most of the local community probably has visited Des's shed at some time. He has been involved with Atherton Lions Club for 18 years and is also on the management committee of Tablelands Job Training. Des is a consumer adviser with the Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice; he is a repairer of equipment for the Mobility Assistance Support Scheme; he facilitates for the Para Quad Association; and he is a consumer adviser for patient early discharge at the Tablelands District Health Service. This man's door is always open to everyone, whether to give a helping hand or to lend a sympathetic ear to the woes of the day.

People attended the award presentation night from many and various organisations, including the Rocky Creek War Memorial Group, service clubs in the district and individuals who all give their time willingly to advance the cause of goodwill in their respective towns.

We all admire our volunteers. The fact that this year, 2001, the first year of the new millennium, has been made the International Year of the Volunteer has made this an ideal time for recognition of all our helpers. I am pleased to have been associated with honouring these people in my role as the member for Tablelands.
