



Speech by

Mr T. MALONE

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard 30 October 2001

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (7.20 p.m.): In this the 2001 International Year of the Volunteer, I am proud to say that the Mirani electorate was able to recognise a total of 43 volunteers with certificates of appreciation and a badge to mark this very special occasion. Of those 43 very special people, 20 were also awarded the 2001 International Year of the Volunteer medal.

This year in particular it is especially important to recognise the role of the volunteers in our community. There are in Queensland some 85,000 volunteers. And I am pleased to say that in the electorate of Mirani we have great representation amongst these very special people. In an age of hard-nosed economic rationalism when individuals are encouraged to see themselves as their own chief executive officer and price themselves accordingly, we have to ask the obvious question: why would anyone with marketable skills give them away for free? Voluntary service to the broader community is a hallmark of a civilised society, with volunteers the third social pillar alongside government and corporate structures. Volunteering provides scope to work in the management and administration areas but in a more relaxed environment than paid work. Dedication to volunteering was once a way of life, slotted between family and professional commitments in a world that seemed to have far more time in which to do things.

Economic rationalists demand that everyone has to be paid for everything they do, and the need for families to have two incomes is the very reason that there is a reduction in the number of younger volunteers. A large number of our older people who have left paid work bring with them an incredible work ethic and culture, laid down when people worked differently. It is good for young people to see them doing that. It is important to do something within our community that will benefit the community and is also a fulfilling thing to do. It is also part of being a good citizen. Proudly, in the Mirani electorate we are able to rejoice in the achievements of our volunteers, applaud and promote the participation of volunteers and recognise their very outstanding efforts.

Nominees in my electorate came from a diverse area—from Marlborough in the south, Stanage Bay near the Shoalwater Bay Army training centre, St Lawrence, Clairview, Nebo, Sarina, Louisa Creek, Homebush, Bakers Creek and the northern suburbs of Mackay, Walkerston, Marian, Mirani, Pinnacle and Finch Hatton. I would like to name the 20 recipients: Dino Brondello from Walkerston; George Denton from Sarina; Kevin Elliott from St Lawrence; Maree Fisher from Clairview; Peter Griffin from Homebush; Rob Hardwick from Sarina; Alma Hindle from Carmila; Betty Hobbs from Louisa Creek; Nicole Hughes from Sarina; Mel Lowth from Finch Hatton; Olive Prout from Pinnacle; Peter Ribaldone from Walkerston; Bernadette Rewald from Marian; Mick Shew from Marian; Jeanette Whitehead from Nebo; the Marlborough Agricultural Show Society; Sarina Surf Life Saving at Sarina; the QF24 Thirsty Sound Coastguard from Stanage Bay; the Scope Club of Sarina; and the Sarina Tourist, Art and Craft Centre.

Time expired.
