



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

Member for MOUNT OMMANEY

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ROTARY CLUBS

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.48 p.m.): Rotary clubs have made an invaluable contribution to the lives of many people throughout the world. From building shade areas in public parks to raising funds for essential lifesaving services, Rotary has left its mark on many worthy endeavours. This organisation grew out of a recognition that all of us as individuals have the capacity to contribute something worth while to the community and that all individuals are worth fighting for. Community service clubs such as Rotary are major contributors to the community, providing financial assistance, lobbying power, donations, support and compassion to those who need it most. Rotary has done many wonderful things for communities around the world. To my mind, Queensland's Rotary clubs have one major thing in common, and that is helping people.

Flood relief was provided to residents in Queensland's south-western and northern regions. Rotary clubs rallied behind their flood ravaged communities, providing food, clothing or an extra pair of hands to help with the clean-up. Their efforts made a real difference to those communities which were inundated and isolated by floodwaters. It is certainly heartening to see the level of commitment so many people have to their communities in times of crisis. But a lot of the volunteers I meet are not interested in adulation. They have the community's interest at heart and a successful operation is often reward enough for them. None of these people seek or expect recognition for their efforts. Their only concern is in helping others. This also epitomises the spirit of Rotary.

While most people in the community are aware of Rotary, many may not realise the full extent of what it does. Rotarians constantly pop up in our communities in a variety of roles—traffic control support, flood boat rescues, road accident assistance, land search operations and disaster management coordination. Some examples of community assistance that has been brought to my attention include assistance by Rotary clubs providing trauma teddies to the Queensland Ambulance Service as a way of calming young children who have been involved in terrifying accidents. Rotarians also lend support to rural volunteer firefighters during bushfires, providing them with much needed food and drink. On an international level, Rotary clubs have assisted the people of Papua New Guinea after they were devastated by a giant tidal wave. They were also there for the people of Colombia affected by earthquakes and flooding, and they were there to assist with the rebuilding of our newest neighbour, East Timor.

Without a doubt we would be a lot worse off if it was not for the dedication and community spiritedness of organisations like Rotary. The Beattie government is committed to developing partnerships with community organisations through mutual respect, commitment and equality. The services clubs like Rotary are a vital ingredient in this partnership through their support of community organisations and their high standing in our community. Earlier this year I was honoured to be a recipient of the Rotary of Sumner Park's Pride of Workmanship Award. These awards are given to people who are usually nominated by their employers and who demonstrate qualities of diligence, pride and the determination to do a job to the best of their ability.

Every year the Rotary club supports the Pride of Workmanship Awards concept, which evolved in 1975 with the theme, 'Do it once, do it well; build a better Australia'. Other recipients of this year's award included Kylie Alder, a practice manager; Maryan Schmitt, a receptionist at the Sinnamon Road Medical Centre; and Luke Robinson, assistant manager of Roverwood Pty Ltd. Congratulations Rotary on making these awards an ongoing event.