



Speech by
Kate Jones

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Friday, 8 June 2007

ASHGROVE ELECTORATE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Ms JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (7.22 pm): On Sunday I hosted the inaugural Ashgrove Electorate Community Awards at the Ashgrove Bowls Club as part of Queensland Week celebrations. I am pleased to report to the House that around 200 local residents attended to support our unsung community heroes.

Ms Croft interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member for Broadwater; it was a great idea.

I decided to hold this special awards ceremony to honour the volunteers who work tirelessly to make our local community a better place to live. As the member for Ashgrove, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of local residents in helping those less fortunate than themselves. The 15 award recipients have given back to our local community in many ways through sport, Meals on Wheels, Neighbourhood Watch, sewing swags for the homeless and opening up their own homes to those in need.

To win an Ashgrove Electorate Community Award, the winners have to reside in the local community and be nominated by a fellow local resident. It was so heartening to see the Ashgrove Bowls Club filled with local residents supporting our unsung heroes. I have already had people approach me with ideas for nominees for next year. I think it is important to give credit where credit is due and each of those volunteers deserves recognition for their hard work and selflessness.

The 15 local residents who won an Ashgrove Electorate Community Award are Alan Taylor, Bob Esler, Bob Sudbury, Catherine Cloake, Len Johnstone, Margaret McGinley, Noeleen Christensen, Phyllis Stubbin, Steve Kerlake, Daphne McDonald, Mick Fletcher, Roger Kent, Emma-Kate Rose and Sam Komarowski.

I draw members' attention to the fact that Len Johnstone, whom I just mentioned, is the father of Margaret who works in our cafeteria.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: Yes, it is very sweet. After I doorknocked her father's home, I told Margaret that it is always the case that good people come from good homes. Len Johnstone is 85 and a life member of the rose lovers' society. He is a renowned grower and judge of award-winning roses. Len has worked tirelessly to bring happiness and joy to many people though his love of roses, including going to—

Mr Finn interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the member for Yeerongpilly, who probably knows him from the rose lovers' society. He goes to a lot of the nursing homes in my electorate and presents his award-winning roses. It brings a lot of joy to people. I thank him for that.

I finish by thanking my staff for the hard work they put in. They worked tirelessly to get the awards up and running. It was our first time. I thank the member for Broadwater for her assistance. I make special mention of the photographer who took all the photos on the day. He did a great job and I know that he was not feeling well that day. Thank you all very much and I look forward to the Ashgrove Electorate Community Awards next year.