



Speech by

Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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KAWANA ELECTORATE, ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.15 pm): I would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the recent recipients of the Order of Australia Medal in my electorate. These awards, which were announced on the Queen's Birthday public holiday, are a gesture of thanks and appreciation for the level of community service, goodwill and personal generosity contributed by people in our communities.

Mr Barrie Woods co-founded the Red Cross Singers some 25 years ago. In over 1,000 shows, Mr Woods has never missed a performance of the Singers, which performs at nursing homes and hostels across the Sunshine Coast. Perhaps one day I will join him. Mr Woods has provided entertainment and brought some joy to the lives of so many people who sometimes quite simply need a bit of cheering up. I was very pleased to see Mr Barrie Woods receive this award, and now he joins his wife, Therese, who also was acknowledged with this award in 1996.

Mr Leslie Pontin is also well known in Caloundra and Kawana for his dedication to community service. He was duly acknowledged on 8 June with an Order of Australia Medal. Upon receiving his award, Mr Pontin was quoted as saying, 'The world would not be the place it is if it was not for our volunteers.' This only further demonstrates the selfless commitment Mr Pontin has made to the community. He volunteers as a driver for Meals on Wheels in Caloundra and for Kawana Companions.

The third gentleman to receive an Order of Australia Medal in my electorate was Mr Don Aldous. Mr Aldous is of course well known across the Sunshine Coast, but particularly in Caloundra. He served on the Caloundra City Council, which encompassed most of my electorate, as the mayor for 11 years and was a local government representative for a total of 14 years until his retirement as mayor in 2008. His service to local government, the community and youth employment has enabled the former city of Caloundra to be a destination of choice for tourists right around the world.

On a personal level, I would like to thank Mr Aldous for his support and guidance over the past 10 years. Mr Aldous is currently enjoying a nine-month trek around Australia with his wife, Heather, and recently caught his first barramundi near Broome, although I am advised that it was a few centimetres short. From one keen fisherman to another, I congratulate him on his magnificent feat and pay tribute to him for his community service deeds over the past 20 years.