



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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HELENSVALE SCOUTS; QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (10.20 pm): Recently I took part in the Helensvale Scouts 25th anniversary celebrations. What an amazing day and an amazing experience. This scout group has 180 scouts. The amazing thing about that is that five years ago it was close to closing. It has been built up from there and not only is it now the biggest scout group in Queensland, but it is arguably the biggest scout group in Australia. It is located in downtown Helensvale, in my electorate. I presented the Queensland flag to the scout group on the day. It placed a time capsule, to be opened in 25 years time, on its property. It is constantly looking for funds so that it can expand its facilities to enable it to bring more and more young people on board.

On Tuesday, 7 September I attended the Queensland Ambulance Service South-East Region Star Care Awards for Excellence. The QAS recognised its finest performers across South-East Queensland at a function held in Beenleigh. The award ceremony was a special occasion for volunteers across the region, with QAS first responder Sam Messina, of Volunteer Marine Rescue Jacobs Well, being awarded the region's Honorary Ambulance Officer of the Year Award. Not only was Sam a QAS first responder, he was also operations manager and resource controller for blue crew at VMR Jacobs Well. I congratulate Sam on his commitment to this important program. I am very proud to be the local member. Our volunteers are very important.

Some 700 million hours a year are volunteered in Australia. That works out to about 30 hours for every man, woman and child in the country. We simply could not do without them. The country would grind to a halt. The QAS also recognised advance care paramedic John Hart, who was named QAS South-East region Paramedic of the Year. John was based at the Beenleigh Ambulance Station in my electorate and was responsible for the training of the VMR Jacobs Well first responders. I say 'was' because John is retiring soon and sadly the QAS, the VMR and the community at large will be losing a very special paramedic. We all wish John well in his retirement. This evening I also attended the AGM of CEO Challenge and was pleased to witness the recruitment of two new corporate sponsors that have taken up the challenge to support local refugees. It has taken its total to 16 corporate sponsors supporting domestic violence refugees around Queensland.

(Time expired)