




Speech by

Ian Walker

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

QUEENSLAND GREATS

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (12.43 am): During Queensland Week 2012 our Premier recognised six Queensland Greats, including Meals on Wheels Queensland, which received the award for the Queensland Institution of the Year in recognition of the valuable services and support it provides to Queenslanders. The Queensland Greats Awards acknowledge individuals and institutions whose long-term or lifetime achievements have played a significant role in the history and development of Queensland.

I was pleased that the representative chosen to accept the award on behalf of Meals on Wheels was Mrs Mary Lowe AM, the president of Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels. Mary has been both Queensland and national president of Meals on Wheels, and her personal honour in receiving the award was well deserved.

We are all very aware of the wonderful work of the many volunteers in our local communities who carry out the work of this iconic organisation. I have been provided with the following information by my local Meals on Wheels members. Meals on Wheels in Queensland commenced in Ipswich in May 1956. The original meals were delivered using household pudding basins and thermos flasks.

Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels delivered its first meals on 1 July 1975. The inaugural secretary and one of the deliverers on that first day, Mrs JM 'Bunty' Hughes, is still delivering for the service, almost 40 years later. The service started with 12 clients, and meals were obtained from the Salvin Park Nursing Centre. One of the guiding hands in setting up the service was Mr Arthur Scurr, who chaired various meetings and provided tangible support.

Over the past 37 years, the meals have been obtained from various sources and presently from a commercial food supplier of chilled and frozen meals. The service also supplies a sandwich pack if required by the client. At the present time, the service meets the needs of 120 clients in the areas of Mount Gravatt, Wishart, Mansfield, Upper Mount Gravatt, Eight Mile Plains, Macgregor and Greenmeadows. The service provides both chilled and frozen meals for up to seven days per week.

The 100 volunteers operate from a purpose-built facility, and a very good one, at Broadwater Road, Mount Gravatt. The volunteer drivers receive a petrol subsidy and the service provides thankyou functions from time to time. The service provides some special treats for clients throughout the year, including a birthday cupcake, hampers at Easter and Christmas time, Anzac biscuits on Anzac Day, a lamington on National Meals on Wheels Day and special homemade biscuits for Mother's Day and Father's Day. These goodies are supplied via fundraising barbecue activities which the service undertakes.

The service also receives valuable support from service clubs, its local councillor and the Westpac Bank. The local Lions Club always donates some of its Christmas cakes at Christmas. The Mount Gravatt service is unique in that it delivers its meals around 8 am so that both clients and volunteers can plan the rest of their day. That enables young volunteers to call in and undertake a run before going to work. It is a very happy place for volunteers and provides a wonderful service to our local Mansfield community. It is a Mansfield great as well as a Queensland Great.