




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Beenleigh Rotary Club, 60th Anniversary

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.18 pm): On 3 March this year the Rotary Club of Beenleigh celebrated its 60th birthday, a major milestone in any organisation. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a dinner at Windaroo Cottage. It was marvellous to see so many community leaders turn up to mark this historic event.

The federal member for Forde, Bert van Manen, was there, as was my good colleague Mr Michael Crandon, the state member for Coomera, who is a past president of the club. Logan City Councillor Don Petersen and Councillor Jenny Breene were also there, along with Mayor Pam Parker who gave a good speech about the great work that the Beenleigh Rotary Club does in the area.

It was also my great pleasure to award the Beenleigh Rotary Club the Albert Community Organisation of the Year award for 2013 for outstanding dedication to the community after 60 years of civic service. I am joking when I refer to the Rotary Club of Beenleigh as the local Beenleigh mafia because they seem to have their fingers in every single pie in Beenleigh. They even control the flow of alcohol from the local Beenleigh Rum Distillery as one of its members is the manager of that rum distillery.

Six decades of commitment to the local community of Beenleigh is nothing short of absolutely incredible. It started in 1953 when 20 community minded local businesses decided to start a local Rotary Club with a passion to create a better world. Charter President Jack Short and Rotarians of the club set about raising money for the community to set up service projects to better serve others. It is certainly a great credit to them.

Over the last 60 years, the club has actively helped multiple organisations throughout the Beenleigh area such as Blue Nurses, Meals on Wheels, Youth Club, Air Sea Rescue et cetera. They have helped a phenomenal number of community groups. Along with other local clubs they also run the very successful Beenleigh & District Cane Festival. Over the past 12 years this festival has raised over \$500,000, which is also a great credit to them.

The Beenleigh Rotary Club is not just bound to local issues. They are a truly international club. They have been helping rebuild schools in Papua New Guinea and Samoa. I thank this wonderful club of which I am a member for its 60 years of civic service. I hope they will have another 60 years of fantastic civic service to the community.