




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Volunteer Marine Rescue Midge Point

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.05 pm): The Volunteer Marine Rescue Midge Point was founded in September 1995 when it was recognised that there was a need for a rescue squad given the distance between the Whitsunday and the Mackay squadrons. A public meeting was held on 25 June 1995 and it was attended by residents from the local and surrounding communities including Keith Lade, who initiated the idea. The meeting was addressed by Air Sea Rescue president, Mr Matt Patane. Residents attending the second meeting included Grant Brown, Gary Considine and Keith Lade. In 2016, the squad had 80 members. It has now grown to 137 members, 17 honorary members and 120 financial members.

Over the past weekend, I was privileged to present: Les Mitchell with his five-year pin; Steve Summers with his five-year pin; Gail Lade with her five-year pin; Sharon McLean with a pin for 10 years of service; Evan Lawn with a pin for 15 years of service and the national medal; Mal McLean with a pin for 15 years of service and the national medal; Rob Murolo with a pin for 20 years of service and the national medal; Grant Brown with a pin for 25 years of service, life membership and the national medal; Keith Lade with a 25-year pin, life membership and the national medal; and Gary Considine with a 45-year pin, a 50-year pin, life membership and the national medal.

An opposition member: Hear, hear!

Ms CAMM: Thank you. In particular, I want to highlight Rob Murolo's 20 years of service. Rob is a skipper and holds a commercial coxswain ticket. He helps with training, fundraising and working bees. Grant Brown became the squad treasurer in 1996 and secretary in 2000. He has held those positions for 23 years. I have worked closely with Grant in my former role as deputy mayor as well as through ongoing support for the Voluntary Marine Rescue.

Somebody very dear to my heart is Gary Considine. Supported by his wife, Sue, Gary has been a member of the Voluntary Marine Rescue for 51 years, joining on 12 June 1972. He was originally a member of the Whitsunday Air Sea Rescue and is a founding member of the Midge Point squad. Gary was awarded life membership in October 2016. He started using his own boats and a cheap CB-27 meg radio. He has been the squad president for the past 20 years. Gary also volunteers with the Bloomsbury Rural Fire Service. He has been a member of Canegrowers for 12 years, six years as chairman, and a member of the mill board for six years. He is a skipper and an incredible man who does incredible things across our community. I have known Gary since I was a very young girl. The Camms and the Considines are dear friends. I congratulate Gary on his valued service to our community and the Volunteer Marine Rescue.