




Speech By
Donna Kirkland

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Rockhampton Electorate, Volunteers

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.53 pm): In attending a number of events in the past month in my electorate, I was amazed at the number of volunteers I encountered. I was also amazed at the age of some of those volunteers. Today I rise to highlight volunteerism in our Rockhampton electorate. I smiled as I witnessed the joy with which volunteers conducted their work and as I acknowledged how old they are, which I have already mentioned. It is appropriate to always give honour where honour is due so today I am going to give honour to some behind-the-scenes people.

I honour people such as Marie Sweeney. Marie has been a keen hockey player since 1946, embodying decades of passion and dedication. She volunteered for the Park Avenue Brothers Hockey Club for 45 years where she was the assistant secretary and bingo fundraising convener. I have worked with her a number of times and she is a bit of a hard taskmaster. I attended the celebration for Marie's retirement at 95 years of age. I commend Marie, who exemplifies the power of commitment and community spirit.

I also honour Joy McCartney, who is the longest standing member of the Rockhampton volunteer branch of the Cancer Council. She joined in 1981 and has played a vital role in over 87 campaigns, helping to raise \$1 million for cancer support and research. I ran into Joy when she was handing out how-to-vote cards at a polling booth. She has been handing out how-to-vote cards for 50 years. That is commendable. Joy and her husband hosted afternoon teas and fostered love and generosity. I commend Joy for her unyielding dedication. She is an inspiration to all who strive to make a difference.

Finally, I honour Alex Limkin, who I saw at the Archer Park Railway Museum on the weekend. Alex is still driving the world's only functioning Purrey steam tram, which is quite amazing. For anyone who has not been to Rockhampton's Archer Park Rail Museum—I will give them a plug—it is well worth the journey. Alex has been a part of the railway museum since 2011, but he choofed off to Mackay for training to enhance his skills, which showcases his remarkable commitment and passion. He enthusiastically shares his history and stories, captivating visitors with his deep knowledge of the museum and the trams.

(Time expired)