



Speech by

**Barbara Stone**

**MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD**

Hansard Tuesday, 10 November 2009

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## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AWARDS, SPRINGWOOD**

**Ms STONE** (Springwood—ALP) (10.07 pm): It is well known that communities with an active Neighbourhood Watch program have helped to reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime and have improved personal and public safety for their areas. Internationally and domestically it is well respected as a successful community based crime prevention program. Neighbourhood Watch has been a part of our communities for over 20 years, providing the opportunity for the community to play an active part in working with their local police to improve their safety, promote safe suburbs and reduce crime.

In the Springwood electorate we have a number of very active Neighbourhood Watch groups that have been proactively working in our communities, alongside our local police officers, making their areas a better place to live. One such group is Brentwood Downs Neighbourhood Watch Slacks Creek 10, coordinated by Mr John de Vaus.

At a recent AGM, Mr de Vaus ensured his team received some well-deserved thanks and acknowledgment for their hard work. Officer in charge of the Slacks Creek Police Station, Senior Sergeant Geoff Thomas, Councillor John Grant and I were extremely happy to attend the AGM and present awards to the worthy recipients. I am pleased to inform the House that the following people received a silver award for five years service: Robyn Russell, John Leinonen and Peter Marriott. For three years service, a bronze award went to Kerri Lee Pattison, Iris Chiles, Rae Chiles, Marcus Jensen, Valma Jensen, Delma Thomson, Sylvia Render, Clive Render and Carol Greenfield.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr John de Vaus for the work he has done for many years in leading this Neighbourhood Watch group and making sure that they remain dedicated and committed. His leadership of this Neighbourhood Watch has also ensured that the group remain relevant by keeping up to date with new challenges and they often have guest speakers come along to the meetings. The meetings also allow opportunities for members to participate and ask questions of interest to them.

The local police have always worked alongside our Neighbourhood Watch groups and I was extremely pleased that Senior Constable Steve Shipman from the Springwood police beat recently was awarded the Neighbourhood Watch Police Community Liaison Award at the Neighbourhood Watch State Conference. Many people in the Springwood community know Senior Constable Shipman through his work with Neighbourhood Watch groups and also in the local community with schools, youth groups and the Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association.

I also want to take this opportunity to mention Senior Constable Tom McKinnon and his family from the Springwood police beat who have recently transferred to Hervey Bay. Tom will be very missed in our community. He was extremely well known in schools. He was instrumental in the successful running of our men's group. He worked hand in hand on many occasions with LECNA and brought joy to our senior citizens at Christmas time, when he took them on a carols and lights tour. He is certainly a big loss to our community. I wish Tom and his family all the very best in Hervey Bay.

I also want to thank Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson, Superintendent Alistair Dawson, and Senior Sergeant Geoff Thomas for their hard work in ensuring that the Slacks Creek Police Station at Daisy Hill was able to find suitable accommodation as the upgrade of the M1 takes place. I believe that the location is a win-win for our community.