

## LIONS CLUB, PORT SORELL

[6.03 p.m.]

**Mrs < BUTLER >** (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, I rise tonight to note the fantastic contribution to the Tasmanian community made by voluntary clubs and organisations who work quietly and cooperatively to help those members of our community with overwhelming challenges to meet. This Government values the important achievements of these clubs in helping both individuals and communities. I would like to congratulate the notable achievements of such clubs and in particular, the Lions Club of Port Sorell, 201T1, which was chartered in 1984.

Charter members who are current Lions members are Bill McCulloch and Chris Smith. There have been fantastic awards for this club over many years. In 1986 at the world conference in New Orleans, the club was recognised for the concept of the Australia Day Water Slide, which I understand is still being held. In 1993 it was named as the top Tasmanian club. In 2000, Port Sorell representative Ben Kiely was chosen as the Australian Lions Youth of the Year and in 2001, Port Sorell representative Michael Owen from Shearwater was chosen as the Tasmanian Lions Youth of the Year.

In recognition of service to Lions, there are life members John Hughes, Bill McCulloch and Chris Smith, and Melvin Jones fellows are John Hughes, Bill McCulloch, Chris Smith and Allan Robinson. The things that this terrific club has been involved in since 1984 are the Port Sorell walking track; the Mary Creek walkway; the Lions caravan park; walking tracks; Panatana pool/barbecue gardens; the Shindig tip shop; the shelter sheds; the chopping carnival; Christmas carols; interclub visits; the speedway; skateboard ramp; the Devonport Show gates; Golden Oldies trips; Relay for Life; Devonport Show clean-up; Seniors Week breakfasts; Citizen of the Year; Youth of the Year; community barbecues; the Miles Ford Award; Orana dinners and many more.

In terms of monetary donations, the Port Sorell Life Saving Club has had donations including the First Response vehicle, which is a terrific innovation in Port Sorell that has really helped a lot of people up there; Hearing Dogs; Camp Boomerang; Camp Banksia; two wheelchairs; bikes for the disabled; Operation Noah; Cord Blood; Christmas hampers; Make-a-Wish Foundation; Giant Steps; Diabetes; Meals on Wheels; the Asthma Foundation; Red Cross; Dyslexia Programme; Gran's Van; Cystic Fibrosis; Jack Jumper Research; Kidney Disease Fundraiser and many more. There is an estimated annual contribution to the community which average well over 1 000 man hours and \$15 000-plus per year over the 24 years, so that is a fantastic job that they have done and it is a very cohesive group.

Recently the Port Sorell Lions Club purchased a brand new state-of-the-art mobility scooter for Bill McCulloch who, as I said, has been a charter president for 25 years, a life member, a Melvin Jones Fellow and a very well respected Lion. Bill has been a diabetic for 46 years, a situation which has compromised his level of activity for some years but certainly not dimming his determination or his motivation for helping others.

Bill's scooter is named the Blue Blazer and it has made a terrific contribution to the quality and richness of his life. Several trips have been taken over to Shearwater and he is even able to go over to Gunns to get sandpaper to repair his fishing rods. He can now sit at the table with his wife Marie for a meal after a long time of eating off his lap and suffering annoying slippages of crumbs.

This club certainly has set the bar high in terms of its commitment to the local and broader community. As I have highlighted, the club has made significant contributions to the lives of thousands of Tasmanians and they should be commended not only by the Parliament but also by the Tasmanian people who they so humbly serve.