

Yasmin Catley MP

Member for Swansea



Tuesday 9, June 2015

PHOTOS ATTACHED

SWANSEA VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR LIFELONG SERVICE

The Member for Swansea Yasmin Catley today recognised the lifelong service of Swansea and Central Coast volunteers with the *Premier's Volunteer Recognition Service Program* awards ceremony.

Five volunteers, with a combined volunteer service totaling over 170 years were recognised for their lifelong volunteering efforts at this morning's ceremony and morning tea at the Swansea Centre.

"The *Premier's Volunteer Recognition Service Program* is a fantastic way to recognise both long term and lifelong volunteering in our community," Ms Catley said.

"One volunteer, Mr Max Austin of Budgewoi has been involved with Camp Breakaway, which has run camps for adults and children with disabilities, since its inception - over 34 years ago.

Max is also active in Rotary, helping to build cabins and an activity centre at San Remo, and fundraising for the construction of the Main Lodge.

On top of all this, Max was also instrumental in the establishment of the Toukley Uniting Church, of which he is still an integral member today." Ms Catley said.

Speaking at the Volunteer awards ceremony, Mr Austin said he was humbled to have been nominated by his friends and peers in recognition of his lifelong service to Camp Breakaway.

"It was such an honour to be awarded a lifelong volunteer recognition award today," Mr Austin said.

"I've never once heard a person with disability complain about anything in almost 35 years of volunteering at Camp Breakaway".

"Volunteering gives me as much joy today, as it did when I first started over 40 years ago".

"We are so fortunate to have volunteers like this in our community. It has always been my observation that you get more back from volunteering than what you put in," concluded Ms Catley.

More information about the *Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program* can be found [here](#).

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