10 May, 2010

TRIBUTE TO OUR TRUSTEES DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Minister for Land, Tony Kelly, has paid tribute to the 6,000 volunteers who manage around 700 public reserves throughout NSW.

“This week is National Volunteer Week (10 – 16 May) and it’s appropriate to recognise these unsung heroes,” the Minister said.

“They support metropolitan, rural and regional communities through the system of Crown reserve trust boards.

“It’s a system of public land management that has worked successfully for more than 150 years.”

These reserve trust volunteers manage local community halls, youth clubs, sporting fields, state parks, local parks, playgrounds, showgrounds, racecourses, cemeteries and much more.

Some are local tourist attractions with the capacity to stimulate local economies and provide jobs.

Mr Kelly said the Government is investing almost $14 million this year through the Public Reserves Management Fund to improve Crown reserves throughout the state.

“The Keneally Government recognises the volunteers that handle the day-to-day running of these reserves through the annual Crown Reserve Trust Award, part of the Regional Achievement and Community Awards,” the Minister said.

“We also recognise our volunteers by presenting long service certificates to trustees who’ve served for 10 years or more, but it’s not usual for them to eclipse 20.

“Alex Cork recently passed away after serving on the Dorrigo Showground Trust for more than 54 years from 1954 to 2008, while Arthur Napper’s has spent 47 years on the Booyong Recreation and Flora Reserve Trust near Byron.”