

Legislative Council

HANSARD

Tuesday 26 November 2024

The President, Mr Farrell, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

[excerpt...]

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

[11.06 a.m.]

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, before moving on to our first special interest, I would like to welcome to the Chamber this morning, the guests of the member for Nelson, the Tarooma Scout Group. That consists of Janet Stephens, the Tarooma group leader, Kath Storey, the assistant Scout leader, Robin Thomson, who is an adult helper and Scout leader, Mike Green, who is the group chairman, and 10 Scouts and Venturers. They are joining us to witness the parliament and be part of the special interest this morning. I am sure members here will join me in making you very welcome to the Legislative Council this morning.

Members - Hear, hear.

[excerpt...]

Our first speaker is the member for Nelson.

SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS

Scouting in Tarooma - 70th Anniversary Celebration

[11.07 a.m.]

Ms WEBB (Nelson) - Mr President, I have great pleasure today to rise to speak about the 70th year of Scouting in Tarooma celebration, which were held on 14 September at the Tarooma Scout Hall. I also welcome the guests in the Chamber today about whom I am going to speak.

This celebration was an afternoon full of a schedule of activities, of displays of photos and memorabilia, a great deal of reminiscing, and some Scouting food specials. I must make particular mention of the delicious bush doughnuts, my first experience of such.

It is lucky that the Scouts love a challenge and are used to being out in the elements. It was very rainy that day, but that did not stop the group from having a blast and getting busy with outdoor activities, such as building shelters, which I found incredibly impressive.

It is no small thing to have a Scout group entirely reliant on volunteers operating continuously for 70 years and still thriving and growing. The Tarooma Scout Group currently has, I believe, around 80 youth members across Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venturers. They are supported by a team of 14 section leaders along with parent helpers and a small

management committee. Here, I would particularly like to acknowledge. Mike Green, the chairman of the Tarooma Scout Group, who has been involved with scouts, wait for it, since 1960. That is a very extended period of involvement and service that he continues today. Mike's quiet and calm leadership looks to me like a linchpin of the group. But he tells me that the key to the continued success of the Tarooma Scout Group is its dedicated youth section leaders who are highly qualified and deliver a great Scouting experience to all the kids involved.

Their dedication also extends beyond the group to volunteering at the Tasmanian state branch levels as branch commissioners. One of the loveliest things that I noted in talking to people at the 70th anniversary celebrations was the families with multiple generations who participate in this group.

Of course, wonderful people are the heart of the Scouting movement. However, I do think that a secret strength behind the success of the Tarooma Scouts must be the fantastic Scout Hall they have at Apex Park on land provided by the Kingborough Council. The hall is large and has all kinds of extra sheds, storage spaces, and covered areas that house the extensive equipment, camping gear, and boats used by the Scouts. I was especially impressed by the special room out the back for the Venturers. On the day of the 70th celebrations, the Venturers group had only just completed a beautiful new mural on an inside wall of their room. It is possible the paint may still have actually been wet, and I thought that was a beautiful depiction of all the sorts of activities that they undertake with the group.

Speaking of Venturers, I especially appreciated meeting and talking with some of the Tarooma Venturers, who are incredible examples of where Scouting can take you, and the growth and development that participating in Scouts can bring. For example, I met Adelaide Simpkins, who is here in the Chamber today as one of our guests, who recently participated in Venture24 in Victoria and has travelled as far as Fiji to the Explorer Expedition. Adelaide strikes me as a person who will always go far in life, both literally and figuratively, and I have no doubt that her time in the Tarooma Scout group, from Joeys to Venturers, has played a strong part in that.

I also met Venturer Liam Ludlow, who was recently awarded the King Scout Badge, previously known as the Queen Scout Badge, which is regarded by many as Scouting's highest achievement. Liam joins an elite band of people from all over the world who have attained this award and from this select group many of the world's great achievers are drawn. It is such an impressive array of young Tasmanians when you visit a Scout group. The history and heritage of the Tarooma Scout Group is clearly cherished and it was amazing to pore over the dozens of photo books, posters, old uniforms and equipment that were on display during the celebration day.

Mr President, I am sure you would be familiar with the Scout uniform and remember one of the most distinctive items is the leather woggle that secures the scarf centrally at the front. A quirky fact that I learned on the day was that the very first Scout woggle was invented right here in Tasmania. Not only that, it is still here, and on display at the Scout Archives Museum in The Lea. A proud heritage indeed.

The main source of pride, however, are the impressive young people who are drawn to Scouting and commit themselves to the challenges, opportunities to learn and the enjoyable experiences that it offers. These young people are provided with opportunities to develop their community-mindedness and their leadership skills. Moreover, and perhaps uniquely in this

modern world, Scouting offers our children and young people a beautifully well-rounded, inclusive, healthy, and purposeful way to spend time building relationships and contributing to their community. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to attend and share in the wonderful celebration of such a significant milestone for the Taroona Scout Group. Their 70th anniversary year.

I acknowledge that colleagues from the other place, Madeleine Ogilvie and Vica Bayley, also attended the celebrations and we were all honoured to receive one of the very special badges made to commemorate the 70th anniversary - a beautiful design with pictures on it from some of the children and young people in the group. I was privileged to get to know the Taroona Scout Group a little better that day. I pay tribute to them and the Scouting movement for its ongoing success and much-valued place in our community.

Members - Hear, hear.

[end of excerpt]