



Speech by

**CHRISTINE SMITH**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Hansard 26 November 2002

**BP AWARDS CEREMONY, GIRL GUIDES**

**Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (11.39 p.m.): Recently I attended a BP awards ceremony for Girl Guides on the Gold Coast. An invitation to speak at the ceremony sent me scurrying for my box. I think everyone has one storing a collection of memorabilia, letters, cards and trinkets collected over the years and too sentimentally valuable to be thrown away—no matter how many times one moves house. The box is a wonderful way to reminisce and recall long forgotten good times and experiences. In this box I knew I had badges and other odds and ends from my days as a Girl Guide more than 40 years ago. A special find was my colour patch which I had to embroider before I could be sworn in as a Girl Guide. Not being the best embroiderer, it took three attempts before the guide leader would pass it as acceptable and allow me to be enrolled.

At the awards ceremony I was able to relate some of my experiences and show off my colour patch to a new breed of Girl Guides. These days hand embroidered colour patches are a thing of the past and it created some interest, especially among the retired Girl Guides. These retired Girl Guides introduced me to the Trefoil Guild—the adult section of the Girl Guide movement. At the awards function they were in charge of the catering, but their objectives also include fellowship and community work as far as their other commitments will allow. I was introduced to Rita, a member of the Burleigh Heads guild, who encouraged me to come to one of their meetings. To cut a long story short, I am now a fully-fledged member of the group. I thank Rita, Hazel, Robyn, Erin, Merle and Jean for making me so welcome and reintroducing me to the wonderful world of guiding.

But Girl Guides are not the only ones with a base in Burleigh. The Burleigh Heads Scouts, which includes girls and boys from six to 18 years of age, is also very active. It has a wonderful facility in a scout hall on a huge block of land in Burleigh Heads which was donated to it many years ago. Upkeep on this property, however, is a continuing problem. Brian Barry from the North Burleigh Surf Club alerted me to the financial problems of this scout troop. The local government rates on the property had become more than it could afford and the future was looking bleak. Because scouts only raise money during Scout Job Week, their income is very limited. As scouts are always the first to get involved in community events and fundraising, it was time to give them a helping hand in the form of a couple of donations. The scout leader, Tracey Dickson, organised a gathering of scouts on a non-meeting night so Barry and I could hand over our cheques. Hopefully this money will ease the immediate financial crisis. While scouting and guiding have a long history after being started by Lord Baden Powell in 1908, they are still relevant in today's world. I congratulate those leaders who give of their time to work with young people and provide experiences and training that will last a lifetime.