




Speech by

Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 12 September 2012

SAMFORD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE; Q3 DISTRICT LIONS CONVENTION

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (11.15 pm): I rise this evening to pay tribute to the outstanding work of the Samford Rural Fire Brigade and also to outline an important event occurring in Samford from 5 to 7 October. At the weekend, I had the great privilege of representing the Minister for Police and Community Safety, the Hon. Jack Dempsey, at an event that recognised the brigade on its 60 years of service as well as commissioning their new appliance, Samford 61. Throughout the afternoon, I had great pleasure in awarding 13 volunteers with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service National Medal and the Diligent and Ethical Service Medal. The Samford Rural Fire Brigade was founded by Mr Jack Mitchell with the support of his wife, Joyce, and both were at the presentation throughout the afternoon. It was clear to all who were present that their commitment to the local community has waned little over the years. It is no small task to keep a volunteer organisation running for 60 years. However, the 74 dedicated Samford Rural Fire Brigade volunteers have managed to ensure that the district remains well protected throughout the bushfire seasons.

The area that the brigade is responsible for stretches from Bunya to Mount Nebo, covering approximately 89 square kilometres. The task of protecting this area is made a little easier with the commissioning of their new appliance, Samford 61. It is a \$375,000 dual cab, four-wheel-drive vehicle that is able to carry six firefighters and 4,000 litres of water. The importance of the event was made evident through the personnel who attended, the Assistant Commissioners for Urban and Rural Operations, Ian Mitchell and Neil Gallant, and the Northern Zone Commander Noel Harbottle. The crowd favourite was Area Director of Rural Operations, Neil Kelson.

It was also evident that the part played by the brigade is well regarded as other community groups sent representatives to acknowledge this important occasion, such as the officer in charge of the Ferny Grove Police Station, local SES and ambulance officers, Samford Museum and the Samford CWA, who provided an outstanding morning tea. While I would hope that the work of the brigade is not significantly tested this fire season, early indications are that they will be quite busy. The new appliance has already been out in the field, assisting with events over at Brookfield at the weekend. I wish the Samford Rural Fire Brigade and all brigades throughout Queensland the very best for what may be a long, hot summer.

The other event I mentioned briefly is an event occurring between 5 and 7 October, which is the Q3 district Lions convention for 2012. It will be held at the Samford Showgrounds throughout that weekend. I would encourage all members to come along and visit on that important occasion. I wish to update the House at some later stage about the success of the event.