




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Mount Petrie Bowmen

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the wonderful work of one of Chatsworth's sporting clubs, the Mount Petrie Bowmen. The club started from humble beginnings when, in 1964, four members came together to shoot at straw targets on a former small bore rifle range. In the early 1980s, the club embraced beginner archery courses, which caused membership to grow and enabled the club to undertake extensive capital works, building a competition-level range.

In the decades since, the club has gone from strength to strength. Their facilities are now regarded as some of the best in the world, attracting the British and Italian Olympic archery teams in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics, in addition to being used by the Australian Institute of Sport. Access to those world-class facilities, along with the support and guidance of quality coaches, has given members the resources to compete at the highest level.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House the outstanding achievements of the junior members of the Mount Petrie Bowmen. At the 2012 National Youth Archery Championships, the team won gold in all five disciplines and a number of the team members broke national records. In 2013, the club is aiming higher again as it hosts the National Youth Archery Championships in Chatsworth. Four of the team members will be shooting for selection to the Australian national youth team to compete at the world championships in China. I wish them all the very best for a successful competition.

However, while the club's record at competitions is most impressive, the Mount Petrie Bowmen remain committed to catering to all ages and abilities. The club's come-and-try and beginner courses continue to grow in popularity and offer members of our community the opportunity to try their hand at a new sport. The club is also working to once again upgrade its facilities, this time to improve access for individuals with a disability so they too can become involved in the exciting sport of archery. Recently, it was my honour and privilege to be asked to serve as patron of this wonderful club. I look forward to offering my support to the club in the coming years and being a part of their continued growth and development. Indeed when I visited the archery range a matter of weeks ago they made me feel extremely welcome and I was able to have a shot or two myself. It proved to me how difficult this sport is and the amount of discipline one requires to undertake this exacting sport.

Over many years since those first archers took aim, the Mount Petrie Bowmen have grown to become one of Australia's most successful archery clubs. I am very proud to commend the work of the club's coaches, archers and numerous volunteers who make this wonderful club continue to prosper. I commend them to the House.