




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Belmont and Gumdale Scout Groups

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.41 pm): I rise today to bring to the House's attention the work of two of Chatsworth's volunteer organisations, the Belmont and Gumdale scout groups. Scouting is a unique endeavour which strives to foster the physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and character development of young people. Chatsworth is privileged to be home to not one, but two, outstanding scout groups.

The Belmont Scout Group is home to over 70 joey scouts, cub scouts and scouts, in addition to a further 70 adult leaders, committee members, family and friends. In the past year alone, members of the group have received an impressive number of awards. Ten joey scouts have been awarded the Joey Promise Challenge Award and a further six cub scouts have received Grey Wolf Awards. These awards represent the highest level of achievement at both the joey scout and cub scout level, and I commend each and every recipient for their ongoing dedication to scouting. However, the group's achievements do not end with the scouts. Group leaders Helen Lovegrove and Bernard McDrury have each received awards from Scouting Queensland, acknowledging their commitment to the Belmont Scout Group and the scouting movement.

The Gumdale Scout Group, which formed six short years ago, is also thriving, with over 80 joey scouts, cub scouts, scouts and venturers. Since 2007, members of the group have received numerous awards including 82 joey scout promise badges, 27 cub scout Grey Wolf Awards and two Australian scout medallions. Once again, adult leaders play an important role in supporting the scouts. A number of adult leaders from the Gumdale Scout Group have received accolades for their service to scouting. Among the recipients are group leader John Parr, who received the Silver Kangaroo Award, which is the highest service award a leader can receive in Australia; Angela Bassard and Kathryn Chandler, who were awarded certificates of merit for their ongoing service to scouting; and the late Martin Collett, honoured posthumously with a Silver Arrowhead Award for outstanding service to the Gumdale Scout Group.

While scouts continually strive for personal improvement, they are also encouraged to work to better their communities. Again, the Belmont and Gumdale scout groups excel in this regard, developing partnerships with a number of organisations such as the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, the local Rotary Clubs, Gumdale and Districts Progress Association and the Leukaemia Foundation. Renowned British adventurer and chief scout Edward Michael Grylls, better known by his moniker 'Bear' Grylls, believes that as a young boy scouting gave him a confidence and camaraderie that is hard to find in modern life. Irrespective of where life takes them, it is clear that scouting equips young men and women with the skills to enable them to be prepared for whatever the future holds. It is my distinct pleasure to highlight the work of the Belmont and Gumdale scout groups to the House.