




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Wynola Girl Guides

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (1.29 am): To change the world, to build a fairer society, it is important that all parts of our community are empowered. To truly change the world, women everywhere need to achieve empowerment. In a quiet corner of Coorparoo sits a small hut in a peaceful park. On Sunday an important milestone was celebrated in this hut. The Wynola Girl Guides celebrated 90 years of service to our community—90 years of women coming together to educate and empower girls and young women. As I looked around the hut at the gathered crowd, I saw a room full of strong and courageous community leaders—women who had developed the values and leadership skills in this very hut, skills and values that have carried them through life and enriched our entire community, women who have given their time, energy and passion to pass on their knowledge to another generation of young women.

In September 1925, Mrs Phoebe Edith Kirwin, known as ‘Aunty Jo’, advertised in the Sunshine Children’s Corner of the *Telegraph* newspaper for any girls interested in forming a Girl Guides company. Over the subsequent months, preliminary meetings were held and administrative matters attended to before the new company was officially registered at Girl Guides headquarters on 22 May 1926. The company moved throughout various locations in the city before thankfully moving to Coorparoo in 1942. They started in a paddock and then moved around to a few locations before finally settling in Meridian St, Coorparoo in 1959. The name ‘Wynola’ was suggested by Aunty Jo. Its enduring meaning was evident 90 years later at the hut in Coorparoo last Sunday. Wynola signifies sunshine and happiness, and these were evident in the smiles and the songs of the guides as they sang the Girl Guides *World Song* and recited the Guide Promise.

An honourable member: How does that go?

Mr KELLY: Members are not going to hear it from me—the song or the promise. I will tell members one part of that promise, though: it commits the guides to community service. That commitment is no more evident than in the service of Captain Elaine Callick, or ‘Dixie’ as she is known by her guide name. Elaine started as the company captain in 1968 and continues in that role to this very day. Dixie has empowered, educated, inspired, comforted and enriched the lives of all the girls lucky enough to move through the company over the last 48 years—an incredible achievement of community service that is truly inspiring.

To speak of the full range of achievements and activities of this company would take a very long time—the awards, the working bees, the camps, the community service, the support for overseas companies during war, the Queen’s Guides, the welcoming of Lady BP. There is just too much to tell in the time available. I would like to thank all the women who have given tirelessly over the last 90 years to build this important part of our community, particularly Dixie. They have truly achieved their mission to enable girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. Happy 90th birthday to Wynola Guides.