



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Samford Valley Target Archers**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (12.42 am): Recently I had the opportunity to represent the sports minister, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, at the Samford Valley Target Archers, which hosted the Australian Open between 4 March and 6 March 2016, with some 129 archers from across Australia. Competing in that competition were the best of the best, including those hoping to represent Australia at the Olympics in August this year. The tournament was part of the Olympics selection process and is a very important event on the Australian archery calendar.

Following the Australian Open, the Samford Valley Target Archers hosted an additional three days of trials, the second of three Olympic nomination camps that are designed to cut the elite athletic pool down to the final Australian Olympic team. The following athletes participated in the camp: Taylor Worth, Ryan Tyack, Alec Potts, Matthew Gray, Semra Ferguson, Alice Ingley, Ella Byrne, Chloe Grabs and Elisa Barnard. So far, three male places have been secured for the Australian Olympic archery team, and from 8 to 16 April in Tonga female archers competed at the Oceania Continental Qualification tournament for a place on the team.

Ryan Tyack is an Australian archer who is competing in the men's recurve events. He earned a gold medal at the 2006 Junior World Outdoor Target Championships in the male recurve cadet event. Semra Ferguson is an aspiring archer who is training to make it to the Australian team for the 2016 Rio Olympics. Semra is the South Queensland State Champion. She is ranked No. 1 in Australia and at the World Cup in Turkey was ranked No. 17. After shooting in many Australian teams as a junior and winning club, state, national and international titles, in 2010 Semra decided to stop shooting. The dream of being an Olympic champion never went away, so Semra returned to shooting with her sights set on the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Subsequent to the Australian Open, a couple of weeks ago it was my pleasure to return to the Samford Valley Target Archers to try shooting a few arrows down the path. Although I will never be another William Tell or Robin Hood, it was certainly a great opportunity to fire a few arrows down at those targets and learn a new sport.

**An honourable member:** That adds another string to your bow.

**Mr FURNER:** It certainly does. I thank Brian Hagaman, the president of the Samford Valley Target Archers, for giving me a bit of tuition on how to fire those arrows. On a number of occasions he tried to correct my stance, because I have previously fired rifles. He pointed out to me the different stance and angle that you have to adopt in order to use a bow and arrow. I found that challenging, but I certainly will be back again at the Samford Target Archers to try again.