

SCOUT SPEECH – 3 MINUTES (460 words)

Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about a hard working community organisation which makes an invaluable contribution in my Electorate of Forde.

I am talking about the Scout Movement, and in particular the Logan Village Scouts.

The Scouting movement was founded in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in England and quickly spread around the world with the first groups established in Australia in 1908.

Today, the Scout Movement is the world's largest youth organisation, and has approximately 28 million members around the world, including 70 thousand here in Australia.

It describes itself as a "voluntary non-political educational movement for young people, open to all without distinction of origin, race or creed."

The goal of Scouting is "to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities."

Speaker, to me those all sound like worthwhile attributes that we should be cultivating among the youth of Australia.

In my home state Queensland, Scouts youth members are supported by trained, volunteer, adult leaders, and follow an achievement pathway that 'encourages personal progression.'

I know from my own involvement and observations that the Logan Village Scout group performs a very important role in our community and that is why I am proud to support them.

Unfortunately, in March of this year the Logan Village Scouts became victims of crime when someone broke into their local 'den' causing considerable damage and stealing a number of valuable items, including a lawn mower and trailer.

Upon hearing of this senseless crime, I was more than willing to contribute a sum of money to help replace the stolen equipment.

The Logan Village Scout group also successfully applied for, and was granted, funds through the 2021 Volunteers Grants program.

With these monies they were also able to replace the stolen mower and trailer, and also purchase a lap top computer and finance some training courses for volunteers.

This is a great example of why governments need to maintain grants programs like this, to assist worthy community groups who would otherwise struggle to replace or purchase much needed equipment.

It is also important that we continue to support groups such as the Scouts who contribute so much to our communities and provide life skills for young Australians.

Some critics may think that such institutions are 'old fashioned' or out-dated, but Speaker I believe there will always be a place in Australia for capable human beings with a sense of community and commitment.

In conclusion, let me offer my congratulations to the Logan Village Scouts for another successful year full of worthwhile achievements.

I look forward to joining them again in 2023 for the presentation of their annual report.