

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD — FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [12.56 pm]: Rotary WA recently celebrated 40 years since the commencement of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award in October 1969. Sixty-seven young Western Australians aged from 17 to 24 took part in a week-long training, fun and fellowship experience at the Manjedal Scout Centre in Byford that was designed to assist them with the demanding years ahead. The young men and women came from many areas of our state—from Carnarvon to Esperance. I was privileged to be one of the original awardees. A number of the original awardees at the reunion spoke of their admiration of Rotary for providing them with such a fine leadership experience at the cusp of their formal education and careers. The then Rotary district governor, Bill Holywell, who attended the reunion, spoke of the early days of RYLA and the pride and appreciation he has for the many volunteers who made it possible for thousands of young people to gain from this important youth service to the Western Australian community.

I would like to personally congratulate the Rotary movement for its contribution to the Western Australian community over the years and wish it well in its future endeavours.