

AVELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL — BEN SPARGO — SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [12.53 pm]: Recently my office was approached by Aveley Primary School year six student Ben Spargo and his father Brett who were seeking my assistance and support in a fundraising effort for Ben and his classmates' upcoming school camp. Ben had an idea to clean-up the local community of litter and rubbish. Stockland, a prominent developer in Aveley, offered \$500 to the school for its efforts. Still, certain obstacles needed to be overcome to make sure these kids spent that money on the school camp. We needed a bin and we needed to remove the impost of tip fees. I contacted Mr David Lombardo and through his family's company Allmetro Bins a generous donation was made of a skip bin and disposal at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. We spoke with the City of Swan, which offered to absorb the disposal costs, and we even managed to get the local paper, *The Advocate*, on board with a bit of press for Ben's cause. On Monday 24 August, groups of children, teachers and parents flocked throughout the streets of Aveley with black garbage bags in hand. What was the result? A skip bin filled to the brim with garbage bags and the frames of a few old bicycles and a neighbourhood that certainly looked cleaner. Ben is hopeful that other schools might want to run similar programs for their communities and I hope that other schools in Swan Hills share his enthusiasm.