

SOUTHERN RIVER SCOUT GROUP

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [12.57 pm]: The suburb of Southern River is a new and developing suburb. As a result, it lacks many of the community groups that help people to connect to each other and provide the activities that many people in longer established suburbs take for granted.

One of the things lacking in Southern River until very recently was a scout group. A mother, Emma Pearsall, was keen for her children to attend scouts, but there was not a scout group in Canning Vale or Southern River. Rather than complain about this situation, she started networking with others and soon found people willing to help form a new scout group in Southern River. The result was that on Saturday, 20 February, I had the pleasure of attending the investiture ceremony of the Southern River Scout Group at Bletchley Park Primary School and watching the boys and girls make their scout pledges. It was also a pleasure to meet the two group leaders—Rob Venables, more commonly known as “Hitch”, who leads the scout group, and Rob Vickers, more commonly known as “Keneu”, who heads up the cubs. The group leader is Ian McKenzie and the chairman is Gerry Georgegatos.

I commend all those involved in the formation and running of the new scout group and wish them well as they join almost 70 000 other scouts in Australia and 200 million in more than 200 countries to implement the principles of scouting—namely, that scouts should serve God, act in consideration of the needs of others and develop and use their abilities to the betterment of themselves, their families and the community in which they live.

I would like to acknowledge the sound of my twin granddaughters in the public gallery.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm