

SWAN VIEW YOUTH CENTRE — QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [12.57 pm]: On Saturday, 17 January 2015, I was invited to the Swan View Youth Centre at Brown Park to attend the Queen's Scout Award presentation to two members of the 1st Mundaring Scout Group, Wesley Podmore and Tom Bettison. I previously attended a similar presentation in 2012, at which Wesley's sister Courtney Podmore received the same honour, and she was given a place on the Queen's Scout honour board during this year's awards. The Queen's Scout Award is the highest award the Venturer Scouts, or Venturers, can receive, recognising their ability to set their own challenging goals and achieve them. A key aspect of Venturer Scouts is less reliance on adult leaders, with scouts involved in organising their own activities, with support from their leaders. With Venturers aged from fourteen and a half to eighteen years of age, these are practical life skills that will remain with them for life, and a reminder of just how beneficial such activities can be. Wesley and Tom completed a range of activities across such badges as initiative, environment, first aid, unit management, ideals, services, expedition, outdoor, citizenship, vocations, lifestyle, expression, pursuits and leadership. The commitment that these young men have demonstrated, not only to Scouts Australia, but also their community, is admirable. They have been rewarded with personal development in a range of skills that will no doubt assist them throughout their lives. Congratulations to the 1st Mundaring Scout Group, and I thank it for maintaining such a high standard of scouting, an association with a strong legacy based upon the principles of Robert Baden-Powell.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm