



THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ADJOURNMENT SPEECH – SCRIPTURE UNION OF TASMANIA

TUESDAY 3 May 2016

Madam Speaker, tonight I am very pleased to congratulate and say happy anniversary to Scripture Union in Tasmania. Last Saturday, 30 April, in Hobart was the 50-year anniversary at the Best Western Hotel. It was a lunch event and a wonderful celebration.

The Scripture Union has a mission in Tasmania, and indeed around the globe, supporting young children, young people and families, supporting and promoting bible reading, Camps for Kids, Scripture Union Bushies, which is a bushwalking group, Boots and All, North and South, and lots of outdoor activities. Ruth Pinkerton, the state director, did a wonderful job together with her wonderful team at the Scripture Union Office and together with volunteers in pulling together this special 50-year anniversary event.

It was attended by a number of members of parliament, including the Honourable Senator Eric Abetz and Madam Speaker, Elise Archer. It was great to see and catch up with you, Madam Speaker, Senator Abetz and Adriana Taylor, the member for Elwick in the Legislative Council, who has been a wonderful supporter.

There were a range of Scripture Union identities there and special representatives and speakers who have been involved with the organisation over the 50-year period, including Dr Denis Humphries, who was the first chairperson of Scripture Union some 50 years ago. Denis and Delyth Humphries are a wonderful couple. They had the honour of cutting the cake with the support of Ruth Pinkerton, with much applause all around the room.

Some of the other keynote speakers on the day were David Reeve, who is a former state director, and Kay Hunter, and my dear wife, Kate Barnett, who is the current chair of Scripture Union. So yes, I am a little bit biased in support of Scripture Union and their wonderful work, having been a former state council member many years ago and likewise a continuing supporter. Paul Cavanagh, our former state director, was not there but sent his apologies, and of course the late Ron Buckland was the first state director in Tasmania. He has been a giant amongst the Scripture Union community around Australia, not just in Tasmania.



Guy Barnett MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR LYONS

It was wonderful to see some beautiful old friends, George and Lyn Lewinski, who used to host breakfasts at their place once a month many years ago when Kate and I lived in Hobart. Caroline Cochrane was there and she is soon to be launching a book on her experience in the Choir of High Hopes and her personal story, which will be terrific. Dr Rob and Helen Van der Vlist from Launceston drove down together with Kate and me. Helen is organising the 50-year anniversary celebration in Launceston later this year at the World View College. I am looking forward to that with much anticipation.

In terms of the other work of the Scripture Union, of course they are a major employer of school chaplains here in Tasmania, a voluntary arrangement which is supported by the state and Federal Government under appropriate guidelines. It has the wonderful support of the local community, local school associations and it supports children and students in those schools. I just want to say thank you to all the school chaplains around Tasmania for what they do and the support they receive from their local communities.

I held an event here in Parliament House just a month or two ago highlighting the role of chaplains in schools around Tasmania. The minister, Jeremy Rockliff, spoke kindly and generously towards the benefits of school chaplains in Tasmania. That event was also attended by the Hobart City Mission and Devonport Chaplaincy, who also employ school chaplains in their part of the world together with Scripture Union. I want to say congratulations and happy anniversary to Scripture Union. May there be many happy returns with many years ahead in terms of supporting children, young people and families all around Tasmania.

I also want to congratulate my wife for supporting the St Helens School chaplaincy fundraising fun run just a weekend or so ago at St Helens, a 10-kilometre run, together with dozens of others in St Helens. I understand it was a wonderful day and congratulations to all those who participated in the 2K, 5K or 10K event. There were about 140 people there.

It is terrific there were so many there and it was well supported by the local community. Thank you, Mr Llewellyn, member for Lyons for that commendation. Kate shared this verse at the anniversary. It is Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

They are wonderful words, not just for young people but for all of us.