



Speech by

Barbara Stone

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

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YEAR OF THE GIRL GUIDE

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (11.49 am): 2010 is the Year of the Girl Guide and will mark the centenary of the girl guiding movement. For 100 years the guiding movement has supported girls to grow into confident, inspiring young women by tackling the issues of the day, teaching important life skills and building their self-esteem and confidence to take on anything they choose in their life.

Each year thousands of girls and young women are actively involved in guiding through the hard work of volunteers. It is considered to be the largest worldwide voluntary organisation for girls. I am pleased to inform the House that, in their centenary year, I will host with Guides Queensland a 'Woman of Substance' high tea at Parliament House on Friday, 19 February. Women of Substance, or WofS as it is often referred to, is a group of women who support Guides Queensland in its mission to help girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. A WofS member may be a professional woman who has given excellent service to her profession, been one of the first in her field, or excelled in some way related to her work purely by her efforts and merit. She may be a voluntary worker who has given excellent service to the community.

WofS and guides are about assisting girls and young women in guiding and the wider community to develop their self-confidence, leadership and decision-making abilities. Today women from all walks of life have a much more significant role in business. WofS and guides are encouraging young women to put up their hand to go on boards and take on positions that were once male dominated. They mentor young women to develop their decision on a chosen career path, and provide encouragement and advice.

The Hon. Judy Spence and I are looking forward to meeting some very inspiring women at that high tea, and I thank all those involved with its organisation. It is an exciting time for guides throughout Australia as they come together to reflect on memories of the past and their history—history they helped to create. They will certainly be living their motto, 'Let's celebrate our past, live the present and power into the future.' Guides have changed the lives of millions of girls over the last hundred years, and today they are paving the way for the next 100 years.