Good morning everyone, I am Julee Rooney the President of the Blackall Woolscour Association.

I'm here today from Blackall in Western Queensland, to tell you a little about the Blackall Historical Woolscour.

The Woolscour is an important part of our history, but what keeps it going today is very simple.

It's our community.

We are a community-led organisation, and that starts with our volunteer executive committee. We are local people making decisions about a place that belongs to our community and trying to make sure it has a future.

But we certainly don't do it alone.

We have staff, volunteers and community members who give their time, knowledge and skills in all sorts of ways.

Some run tours. Some help with events. Some work on displays and projects. Some know the history. Some know how to fix things.

And quite often, someone simply sees that a job needs doing and gets on with it.

That's probably community spirit in its simplest form.

We also involve young people from our local school, because they are the future of our community. We want them to know that places like the Woolscour belong to them as well, and that one day it will be their turn to look after them.

Tourism is also an important part of what we do, because its benefits reach well beyond the Woolscour.

Every visitor we encourage to come to Blackall has the potential to spend money in our local shops, accommodation, cafés and other businesses. Tourism supports local jobs and gives people another reason to stay in our town a little longer.

So when the Woolscour succeeds, we want our wider community to benefit from that success as well.

And I think **"our"** might be one of the most important words when we talk about community.

It's not *the* Woolscour.

It's **our Woolscour**. **Our history. Our responsibility. Our future.**

Of course, running a community organisation isn't always easy.

We don't have endless money, endless volunteers or endless time.

But we do have people who care.

And when something goes well — an event, a new project, more visitors coming to town, or simply getting something done that needed doing — we all share in that success.

The Woolscour started its life as a place where people worked together.

More than a hundred years later, people are still working together there, just for a different reason.

We're looking after an important part of our past, while making sure it has a place in our future.

The Woolscour doesn't belong to any one of us.

It's ours.

And for the moment, we're simply the people entrusted with looking after it for those who come next.

I think that's what community is all about.

Thank you.