



Speech by

**GEOFF WILSON**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

---

Hansard 22 October 1998

#### **TOURNAMENT OF MINDS COMPETITION**

**Mr WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): In two hours, seven courageous and talented young students from Patricks Road State School will board a plane to Canberra to do battle on Saturday against the best young brains in Australia in the national Tournament of Minds competition. This tremendous team of primary school students Saraya Veltmeyer, Ashton Guy, Toby Thompson, Ross Chandler, Luke Muller, Tom Muller and Anthony Bull from one of the great primary schools in my electorate has recently won the State Tournament of Minds competition at the University of Queensland in the maths/engineering section.

The competition is hailed by schools— Government and non-Government—as the top contest for Queensland's brightest students. A record 651 schools in Queensland entered the competition this year, culminating in primary and secondary State finals in the categories of social sciences, language, literature and maths/engineering. The competition, widely known as the "Battle of the Brains" provides an avenue for gifted and talented students. The Patricks Road team is one of six representing Queensland this coming Saturday.

At the State finals, teams were locked in a room for three hours while they had to solve a challenging task using their thinking skills and some props. The Patricks Road team first won their regional contest and then took the State title after beating the winning schools from the other 12 regions. In the maths/engineering section, the long problem involved relocating inhabitants of an imaginary planet, Squash, to a suitable parallel universe by travelling through a worm hole.

Congratulations to all the parents in the school community who, in three short weeks, have raised approximately \$4,000 to cover the travel and related costs of the students, one parent and one teacher going to Canberra. This is a mighty effort from the school of 500 students. Congratulations also go to the school principal, Mr Bill Haworth, and community liaison officer Anne Cameron. I am sure that all members here join with me in wishing all our young Queensland representatives the best for the "Battle of the Brains" this Saturday.

---