



Speech by

**LINDY NELSON-CARR**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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Hansard 8 June 1999

### **AITKENVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Ms NELSON-CARR** (Mundingburra—ALP) (11.55 p.m.): I was honoured to be able to attend the 75th anniversary of the Aitkenvale Primary School held last week. First-day students and past students attended the event, taking part in a tree-planting ceremony, the burial of a time capsule and posing for photographs. On reflection, it must be said that the Aitkenvale Primary School has been a major community focal point in the City of Townsville. Indeed, its own swimming pool—a huge milestone—has ensured that Aitkenvale students have won 15 of the 19 A-grade swimming carnivals.

While the population of the Aitkenvale Primary School has gone from the hundreds to the thousands and back again, one of the things about Aitkenvale that has continued to rise is the tree population. There has been extremely wise planting of trees and, therefore, lots of appreciated shade. In fact, in 1984 the school received a Greening of Australia Award. The P & C were also able to utilise the underground spring water that Aitkenvale Primary School boasts to sell to Coca-Cola. These funds were vital to the P & C in being able to purchase and utilise many of the assets that were bought for the Aitkenvale Primary School.

It was not so long ago that the Aitkenvale Primary School was out in the sticks, smack bang in the middle of market gardens and farming communities. Many of the past students remember the long walk to school or the bike rides to get there on time. Now Aitkenvale is a busy, central business metropolis catering to a large and diverse community of active and informed citizens. As a school representing a large sector of the Townsville population, the Aitkenvale Primary School has had many distinguished records, including the many highly regarded teachers and principals, many of whom I continue to keep in touch with today.

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Aitkenvale Primary School, it is very fitting to say that teachers, students and the parent body have been part of the success of this school. The expectation of all State schools to prepare our students for the future is alive and well. The friendships, values and experiences that are formed during primary school are important factors in future commitment and success. The "Live to Learn" motto of the Aitkenvale Primary School continues to go hand in hand with the future of Queensland's State schools in the next decade and beyond. "Live to Learn" undoubtedly spells out the relationship between teachers and their students and, of course, the very effective parent bodies that continue to play a vital role in the Aitkenvale community.

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