



Speech by  
**Mrs NITA  
CUNNINGHAM**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG**

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Hansard 25 May 1999

**SHALOM COLLEGE, BUNDABERG**

**Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM** (Bundaberg) (11.02 p.m.): I would like to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding achievements of Shalom College in Bundaberg. This college was established just 15 years ago and, since then, has gone from strength to strength with staged construction of attractive and functional buildings, with provision of top facilities and equipment and with expanding student numbers. The college is held in high regard throughout our community and is a credit to the principal, the dedicated staff, a hardworking group of parents and friends that would be the envy of most schools in Queensland, and the students who set themselves such a high standard.

The college's latest achievement is the recent official opening of its \$2m sports centre, opened by the Governor of Queensland and attended by 1,400 people. The centre was constructed as a multipurpose facility and is the culmination of many years of planning, fundraising and hard work. The building reflects the expertise of local builders Murchie Constructions, engineers Leddy, Sergiacomi & Associates, local suppliers and a team of willing workers. The centre provides for netball, volleyball, badminton and indoor soccer. It has a fully equipped exercise room, room for aerobics, displays, meetings, weight training, a physical education classroom, canteen and change facilities, and will cater for school assemblies, major examinations and the annual art exhibition.

The school has ambitious plans to host one of the largest Rugby League carnivals in Queensland next year and a netball carnival which, together, will involve more than 3,000 players and supporters. The new centre will be used for the State volleyball championships, which will also be hosted by Shalom College next year.

Full credit goes to Shalom College, because the new sports centre is due to the initiative of former principal Brother Nev Feeney, the tenacity of current principal Pat Wall, the untiring work of the chairman of the school board, Peter Ahern, and the determination of their entire school community. But the most remarkable achievement for this college is that the \$2m sports centre has been funded by the college itself without any Government funds. That whole complex has been built and fitted out with a loan from the diocese, which will be repaid over the next 10 years, together with funds raised by the school board and the parents and friends who work every Sunday from 6 a.m. serving food, controlling parking or cooking at the barbecues for the very successful and very popular weekly markets that are held in the school grounds every Sunday. And further, through sheer hard work and commitment, those parents and friends of Shalom College will have their college fully paid for by the year 2002 and their new sports centre by 2009. What an achievement in just 15 years! What a credit those people are to their school, and what a credit Shalom College is to Bundaberg.

At the official opening, the Director of Catholic Education, Joe McCorley, said—

"This hall will record achievements and failures, hopes and dreams, and it will also tell the story of a principal who faced difficulties but had faith that it could be done despite financial roadblocks."

Are these people now sitting back, after such an achievement, reflecting in their glory? No! They are already planning the next school development with the purchase of land at Pine Creek on the outskirts of the city for an environmental centre. This area will enable Shalom College to expand its curriculum in the environmental, outdoor and agricultural areas and could also be used in the future as a camp for

visiting schools and, eventually, as a conference facility. In all, those are outstanding achievements and a fine example for others to follow.

Shalom College in Bundaberg is a truly progressive and independent school, and I pay tribute to everyone who has played a role in its progress.

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