



Speech by

**PETER WELLINGTON**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Hansard 22 July 1999

**MAPLETON STATE SCHOOL CENTENARY**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—IND) (10.28 a.m.): Last Saturday, I had the honour of officially opening the Mapleton State School's centenary celebrations. The school opened on 17 July 1899 with 15 pupils, and the first headmistress, Lizzie Fitzgerald, stayed there until 1903. It is heartening that, although many country schools throughout Queensland have closed their doors, the Mapleton State School celebrated 100 years, and looks like being around for its bicentenary.

The day was a huge success. Hundreds of former pupils of the school and past residents of the town returned for a day that included a street parade and a rollcall at the Mapleton Hall and plenty of nostalgia. A superb commemorative book, *Top of the Range*, packed full of the school's history was written by the school principal, John Henley, and edited by local Tony Dye.

The Salvation Army band and the school band kept everyone entertained; there was tree planting by former and present residents; we buried a time capsule; and there were plenty of exciting and fun things to do and see, including stalls and amusements, displays of beautiful craft work and a great collection of memorabilia. The coordinator of the centenary celebrations and president of the school's P & C, Cathy Menzel, did a wonderful job. She had fantastic support from the hardworking centenary committee, including Lynne Vernon, Warren Nelson, Sue Roff and Paul O'Donnell. I would like to publicly congratulate all of those people who made the day.

Time expired.

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