



Speech by

Mr S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Mr ROBERTSON (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): Yesterday, I had the great pleasure in meeting Bryan Gaensler, the Young Australian of the Year, at the Clunies Ross Centre at the Brisbane Technology Park before over 300 high school students at one of many events scheduled during National Science Week. The purpose of this event was to encourage students to pursue studies and careers in the exciting field of science and technology. Students were also addressed by Greg Lee, Chair of the National Science Week Committee, Dr Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astrophysicist and promoter of Women in Science, Dr Greg Harper, genetic engineer from the CSIRO, and Ms Linda Parker an engineer with Boeing Australia.

On the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of Australia's most pre-eminent scientists, Sir Ian Clunies Ross, it was particularly relevant that this event was held at the centre that bears his name, because Sir Ian Clunies Ross was a committed educationalist who believed that learning was a continuing process through life and that there should be the widest possible access to educational resources.

Yesterday's event brought together students from Runcorn State High School, Brisbane State High School, St Thomas More College and, significantly, Rochedale State High School. I say "significantly", because yesterday was the launch of the Clunies Ross Careers in Science and Technology Project in conjunction with Rochedale State High School and firms at the technology park.

The Clunies Ross project is a first for Australia, whereby students in Years 11 and 12 gain practical work experience through placement with technology-based firms at the park. I congratulate the firms that will participate in this innovative project: Gilmore Engineers, Colmar Brunton, Cook Australia, Queensland Manufacturing Institute and ARM Australasia.

It is critical to Queensland's future that today's students be provided with education, information and opportunities to consider seriously careers in science and technology. By introducing our young people to extraordinary Australians such as Bryan Gaensler, the Department of State Development is demonstrating how exciting and challenging the future can be. Unless our young people embrace science and technology, then opportunities for the creation of new technologies, which are the real job creators in our economy, will not occur to the extent that will ensure our State's future.

Time expired.
