



Speech by

BARBARA STONE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

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JOHN PAUL COLLEGE

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (5.15 p.m.): Last Thursday, the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, the Honourable Paul Lucas, attended John Paul College, a great private school in my electorate, to launch the myjpc.com learning gateway. John Paul College is a coeducational P-12 school at Daisy Hill. It recognises the rapidly changing technology environment and uses the new technology to enhance teaching and learning outcomes. All students from year 5 upwards use a computer notebook and an online curriculum instead of the traditional ruled exercise book.

The school recognises that education is no longer about classrooms, specific teaching hours or a specific place to learn. Instead, the school promotes the 'anywhere, any time' learning process. Teachers and students, using their notebooks and online curriculum, certainly facilitate this process. It is also worth noting that the college has been involved in the Knowledge Nation task force. Their technology program and myjpc.com are noted in the Knowledge Nation policy recently launched by our future Prime Minister, Mr Kim Beazley.

So what is myjpc.com? It is the central knowledge gateway to the JPC connected learning community. It will link students, teachers, parents and the community to administrative information, major college events, co-curriculum information, study hints for students, support mechanisms for parents, other sites of interest such as the Broncos, video conferencing, chat groups, professional training sessions, email and a web account for each family, a community virtual shopping mall that promotes local businesses, especially the businesses of parents at the school, and a community radio station. As members can see, it is about linking the school community to education and also to the outside community.

Like the electorate of Albert, *Big Brother* is alive in Daisy Hill. Can members imagine being a kid in a classroom knowing that during any part of the day mum and dad just may be watching on the computer at home? Yes, that is right. It enables parents to monitor their child's behaviour and their performance. Today, more parents want to be involved in their children's education. They want to know what is happening at school, and myjpc.com links them to the teacher, the classroom, the sporting matches, the curriculum and so much more.

This is the first learning gateway of any school in Australia. The college is widely acknowledged as a world leader in information technology. The school's philosophy is to prepare the students for a lifetime of learning. I believe that the school is doing this and more. It provides an all-round education that focuses on academic, sporting and cultural areas. It is always a pleasure to attend events at this school. I congratulate headmaster Steve Paul and his dedicated team, especially Mr Aidan McCarthy, on this wonderful initiative.
