



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 15 May 2001

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION CELEBRATIONS

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (9.00 p.m.): On Wednesday, 9 May, I visited seven primary schools in my electorate to take part in their celebrations for the Centenary of Federation. I considered that the occasion warranted an extra special effort on my part, which led me to dress up in a period costume for my visits. I am told that I created quite a stir in my federation outfit and fluffy hat.

Each school that I visited commemorated the centenary differently, with activities ranging from a formal school assembly to an afternoon of federation games. In the morning I visited the Redeemer Lutheran College at Rochedale and addressed the year 6 and 7 students on the history of the Australian federation, just before their service celebrating the federation.

My second stop was St Peters Primary School, also in Rochedale. St Peters had organised a comprehensive program of activities and celebrations, with students dressing up as Edmond Barton, Samuel Griffith, Henry Parkes and other fathers of federation for a role-playing exercise.

I particularly enjoyed listening to the student body singing *We are Australians* and the celebration of multicultural Australia that was signified by students wearing the traditional costumes of a variety of nationalities. St Peters Primary School was able to capture in the short time of 20 minutes the whole meaning of the Centenary of Federation, and it was well worth being there.

The next stop was the Christian Outreach College in Mansfield. At COC I addressed the school assembly about the Centenary of Federation, my costume and my role as a parliamentarian. Interest was so significant that the school has asked for parliamentary teaching guides and a tour of this great building later in the year. I will be more than happy to show the students around Parliament House.

Following the Christian Outreach Centre I also called into the Wishart State School and addressed a special student assembly. The Wishart State School decided to plant federation trees near the school entrance to mark this occasion.

One of the highlights of the day was my next visit, which was to the Rochedale South State School. Here I was lucky enough to join the students for a school picnic and singalong. The students were each asked to come to school dressed up as their favourite famous Aussie and, in my opinion, Big Kev stole the show with his enthusiastic cries, 'I'm excited.'

Mount Petrie State School was not put to shame, either, hosting a day of events to celebrate the centenary. I joined in the passing of the Olympic torch between the generations—a symbolic ceremony that included representatives born in each decade of the 20th century.

My final stop of the day was a visit to the Mount Gravatt East State School. Here the activities culminated with the unveiling of a new student-made Federation Wall. Following the formalities, it was down to the oval where I declared the 2001 federation games open. I was happy that Ailsa Scurr, the first teacher at Mount Gravatt East, from the famous Scurr family of Mount Gravatt, was there to open the Federation Wall. My heartfelt congratulations go to all the teachers, students and parents who put so much effort into making the Centenary of Federation real for the schools and great for the community.
