



Speech by

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**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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### **SHOWCASE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

**Ms JARRATT** (Whitsunday—ALP) (1.57 a.m.): As my colleague and electoral neighbour, the member for Mackay, mentioned earlier, I recently had the opportunity and privilege to attend the Showcase Awards for Excellence 2003 at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. These awards are a highlight of Education Week. They provide a forum for state schools to showcase the innovative practices that underpin their contribution to developing a quality, leading edge education system for students in this state. Of the eight schools vying for the showcase awards in our districts this year, four were from the electorate of Whitsunday.

Narpi State School is a small, one-teacher school set in rural surrounds. This year the teaching principal, Rebecca Pollard decided to take her students on a wonderful journey of self-discovery by exploring the forgotten history of early settlement in the district. A unit of work titled 'Forgotten but not Lost' sought to immerse the students in a growing awareness of the role that they can play in shaping their community through exploration of the past. 'Forgotten but not Lost' is a great example of an integrated curriculum program that incorporates rich tasks and real life learning outcomes that are both powerful and empowering.

Coningsby State School is no stranger to the showcase awards, having been area winners in 2002. They went on to represent us in the state awards. This year their showcase entry focused on the school's commitment to learning through the arts. Each year an art exhibition is held at the school. The exhibition not only provides a forum for the students to showcase their talent, but is also an inclusive community event. Principal, Barbara Ridell, and her highly motivated staff are to be congratulated on their innovation in the presentation of the curriculum and on their commitment to the provision of a quality education that seeks to prepare the students for life in the real world.

This year Queens Beach State School from Bowen presented two showcase entries, each of which demonstrated the school's philosophy that learning can and should be fun and relevant. Each of the projects showcased were genuine examples of rich tasks that grew out of student centred activity and involved the use of ICTs for real life purposes.

I congratulate Principal, Bernie Hock, and his talented staff on their innovative approach to teaching and learning. While all of the showcase entries were wonderful, the ultimate award winner was Bowen State School, who shared with us their innovative literacy enhancement and pedagogy project. As a former learning support teacher, I was delighted at both the proven success of this project and the success of the school in winning the award. Congratulations must go to Principal, Ray Armit; Deputy Principal, Peter Fox; the teachers at Bowen State School including the learning support teacher; and the community volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure that the students at their school have the best possible start in life by focusing on the establishment of sound early literacy skills.