



Speech by

Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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GATEWAY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Mr PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (6.23 p.m.): I would like to talk about an organisation known as the Gateway Learning Community. The Gateway Learning Community consists of Balmoral State High School and Bulimba, Cannon Hill, Morningside, Murarrie, Norman Park and Seven Hill state schools. I am proud to say that all these seven schools are located in the Bulimba electorate. It is great to see these schools working together, sharing their knowledge and programs in this unique program and, may I add, doing it so successfully. The end result is that everyone involved is a winner—principals, teachers, students and, in the long-term, the future employees of these motivated students.

The Gateway Learning Community has been officially recognised as one of the two state finalists for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Showcase Awards for Excellence in Leadership. By pooling their ideas and their energies, they were able to offer better opportunities for students in science, culture, sport, music, art and new technologies. Finalists will share with the community their innovative ideas at a one-day expo in Brisbane on 3 September with six winners receiving an additional \$20,000 at a gala dinner that night. The remaining six schools will receive \$8,000 each. I am very proud of every member of the Gateway Learning Community—students and teachers alike—for their outstanding efforts, and I wish them every success.

Another exciting event for the Gateway Learning Community is the Wildwords Science Festival which this year is themed Hands on, minds on, switched on to science. The festival will culminate with a week of festivities from 23 to 27 August. I would like to quote festival founder, principal Chris Ling from Cannon Hill State School—

The Wildwords Science Festival 2004 is a literary program that recognises the multiple literacies our students will need to operate successfully in the world beyond school. It will also support Education Queensland's innovative, Science State—Smart State.

Partnerships have been formed with the community and business to provide added opportunities to enhance the students' education. Students will have the opportunity to meet with scientists from industry and research institutions such as Boeing, Caltex, Food Science Australia and the Queensland Police. Wildwords 2004 will end with the big night out being hosted by the Balmoral State High School on Friday, 27 August from 5 p.m. The big night out is open to the public and admission is free. The evening will feature buskers, international food stalls, sciences displays and events. The night's festivities will conclude with a fireworks spectacular.

Richard Morrison, principal of Balmoral State High School, is doing an outstanding job in enhancing the reputation of the school and ensuring that unique and challenging opportunities are available to students which will stand them in good stead for their future careers. Students from Balmoral High, along with year 7 students from the state schools, are also participating in an innovative program known as the Balmoral Enterprise Team. The program teaches skills in leadership, cooperation, administration, time management and improved responsibilities. Balmoral High students are participating, along with five other secondary schools, in the new Gateway project with Boeing Australia. They are offering 12 traineeships and 30 high school work experience places in the areas of aircraft maintenance and engineering, information technology and administration.