



Speech by

SIMON FINN

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOOROOKA STATE SCHOOL

Mr FINN (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (10.03 p.m.): A number of very important events occurred in the year of 1929, several with worldwide impact. Most importantly, the stock market crash and the onset of the Great Depression had a massive impact on the quality of life in Australia and around the world. 1929 also saw the Kellogg-Briand pact come into effect. This pact was a treaty between several nations, including Australia and the United States, that provided for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy.

In Australia, 1929 saw the election of the Scullin Labor government and a Queenslander led a Kangaroo Ashes tour for the first time. In my small patch of the world, 1929 saw the opening of a state school on Beaudesert Road in Moorooka. The Moorooka State School opened with 139 students, and by the end of the year enrolment had grown to 230. The school continued to develop as the inner south side population continued to grow. By 1948, enrolments had grown so significantly that the school had to use military huts as makeshift classrooms.

In 1959 an infant school opened and operated until 1983, when the state school and the infant school were amalgamated. The next few years will see further change with the introduction of a preparatory year as this government rolls out a program to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of all Queenslanders. This year the Moorooka State School celebrates its 75th anniversary, and today the school has an enrolment of 426 students, including students from many cultural backgrounds. In recent times the school community has been enhanced by the arrival of student refugees from African communities. These students come to our community with many special needs, particularly in relation to language difficulties, and I was pleased to work with the Minister for Education recently to assist the school with the employment of a full-time native speaking teacher aide.

Recently I attended the first major event of the 75th anniversary, a bellringing ceremony attended by several founding students from 1929 and 1930. There are not as many of them left as there were then. Mr Tom Price, a founding student who has worked very hard to research the history of the school and the local area, addressed the assembly and a roll call of founding students was held.

Throughout this year the school is holding a number of events which celebrate the cultural history of the previous 75 years—for example, a swinging sixties event, a seventies night with white suits and black lycra, and a 1980s bad hair and shoulder pads night, which I hope the Minister for Education is attending.

I congratulate the school on celebrating its 75th anniversary. In particular, I recognise the efforts of the principal, Mr Tony Warren, vice principal Ms Nicole King, Mr Tom Price and other founding students, the Parents and Citizens Association, and the current staff and students who have ensured this anniversary is celebrated. The celebration of historical anniversaries is important. Over the course of this year, students, staff and the broader school community will learn about the development of the local area and benefit from the lessons of the past. I pay tribute to the school's efforts and I wish it well for the next 75 years and beyond.