



Speech by

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GOLD COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS; BELLVUE PARK STATE SCHOOL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (9.54 pm): I encourage any members and their families when next visiting the Gold Coast to take the time to visit the recently developed Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens at Rosser Park in the suburb of Benowa in the electorate of Surfers Paradise. At the end of June I was lucky enough to be invited to the opening of the latest part of the gardens, the sensory garden, a joint project between the Gold Coast City Council and Rotary International, in celebration of Rotary's centenary.

The five trails of the sensory garden explore each of our five senses—sight, sound, taste, touch and smell. Even on an overcast morning my senses were certainly woken up when wandering around the garden. It is a great accomplishment for which all involved, including Brian Knowles, the Rotary chairman and his Rotary sensory gardens committee, and Nick Bloor, the president of the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, and the friends themselves should be very proud.

I think it is very appropriate for this House to recognise the sensory garden as a real illustration of community collaboration. This fabulous addition to the gardens was only made possible by the coming together for funding and manpower of many stakeholders—Rotary, AB Paterson College, the Australian Plant Society and the friends of the botanic gardens. Congratulations to all involved.

Congratulations also to the students and administrators of Bellvue Park State School—one of the great schools in the Surfers Paradise electorate. I recently attended a special assembly at Bellvue Park in its performing arts hall, for which the school community is thankful to the education department. This was a special assembly that had to be called. The achievements of the school community demanded it.

These achievements included the selection and contribution of two Bellvue Park students—Michael Mandalios and Brandon Dance—at the Earth Dialogues World Forum held in conjunction with the Brisbane Festival. The two Bellvue Park students were selected as two of only 40 students throughout the state to be invited to take part in the three-day event.

Furthermore, Michael Mandalios from Bellvue Park gave an opening address at the forum after recently being named runner up in the young ambassador speech competition. Congratulations too to Bodhi Connolly of year 5 who was awarded a university medal for the highest score in Queensland in the 2006 University of New South Wales International Science Competition. The accolades kept on coming.

Trent Fisher of year 7 was awarded a 2006 Technology One Building Youth Technology Excellence Award, and Trent will receive his award at a ceremony here at Parliament House in two days time. This is the fourth year that students from Bellvue Park have entered the Technology One awards and the fourth year a student from Bellvue Park has won.

The special assembly also featured a performance from the school stage band, which was last year named best primary school band in the Gold Coast eisteddfod, and a tribute to the 15 years of service to the school by two lollipop road safety officers—Hazel and Joseph. Thank you to the principal, Lynne Walsh, and the deputy principal, Margaret Ball, for inviting me to be part of the celebrations. They are running a tight ship. To the students of Bellvue Park, I say, 'You are doing your parents, your community and, most importantly, yourselves a great service.' Congratulations again.