




Speech by

Hon. Dean Wells

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

MURRUMBA ELECTORATE, EDUCATION

 **Hon. DM WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (7.01 pm): Mr Speaker, it is an honour to be called to make the last speech of Queensland's 53rd Parliament. And it is always a pleasure to have the last word. Let it be about that great strength of this Labor government: education. Tomorrow I will represent the honourable Minister for Education at the official opening of two new monuments to modern education: Mango Hill State School and stage 2 of Bounty Boulevard State School.

It is only months since I turned the first sod at the site of the Mango Hill State School. Then the dynamism of the new principal, Tracy Egan, and \$22.3 million took over. Now we have 213 students, 10 classroom teachers and six other teachers. We have 20 general classrooms to cope with expected rapid growth, two technology classrooms and a specialised music room. The architecture is tasteful, the landscaping is beautiful and the site has a grandeur which uplifts the mind of the observer and prompts the soul to curiosity and learning. My constituents and their children are getting the best modern education has to offer, which is no less than they deserve.

Bounty Boulevard State School now has 729 students and 53 teaching staff of various categories, led by gifted educator principal Leann Griffith-Baker. For a school that only opened a couple of years ago in a suburb which at the time already boasted the largest school in Queensland, North Lakes State College, it is an amazing rate of growth, unless you know North Lakes. That is why we needed the eight new general learning areas, the covered walkways and the outdoor learning area that comprise the \$2.3 million stage 2 addition.

Now, Mr Speaker, as the 53rd Parliament draws to a close, may I note that, although I served under 10 Speakers, none of those presiding officers of parliament exceeded you in fairness or in control of the proceedings. I am sure that all of my colleagues wish you and other retiring members well in their retirement. The rest of us humbly commit our fates to the democratic judgement of the people of our great state, as we go to that gentler version of a Roman gladiator contest which is a modern election campaign.

So I say to you, Mr Speaker, as the Roman gladiators used to say to their presiding officer, and they said it without making any presumption about the result in their own duel: hail Caesar, we who are about to die salute you. Mr Speaker, sic transit gloria mundi!