




Speech by

Ian Berry

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2012

IPSWICH GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (10.09 pm): It is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise to speak on matters relevant to one important occasion in my electorate of Ipswich. On Monday 29 October 2012, I had the honour to attend my first speech night at the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School since being elected as Ipswich's first conservative member since Llewellyn Edwards. I served as a trustee of the school for 30 years, ending in 2003. It is in the light of those facts that my reflections crystallise in this adjournment speech. I reflect on how this very fine school has enhanced the opportunity of young women in Ipswich and its surrounds, including the greater part of western Brisbane. From its humble beginnings in 1893, it has had its trials and tribulations and throughout its mature life obstacles have been overcome. I say with some hesitation that there will be future times when the resources of the school will be fully tested, but this great school is in safe hands.

Principal Dr Peter Britton and his board of trustees, under the chairmanship of Mr Gregory Ploetz, has responded admirably to the trials that have enveloped Ipswich's community, namely, the floods of 2012 and, more particularly, the fire that destroyed a significant building at the school. That had an effect upon the school that cannot be readily quantified. Responding to the urgent needs of the Ipswich residents during the floods of 2012, IGGS provided strong and tangible support by using its buildings. This significant contribution deserves proper recognition in this House.

Trustees Mr Greg Ploetz, Ms Maria Kelly, Mrs Maria Stevenson, Dr Alexander 'Sandy' Horneman-Wren—now His Honour Judge Horneman-Wren SC of the District Court—Ms Patricia Evatt, Mr Savas Varitimos and Dr David Careless individually and collectively have a wealth of knowledge, experience and strong passion for the school. They have given their time gratuitously and generously, and without an expectation of reward. The board attends to ensuring that the school's needs, aspirations and goals will continue and for young women to have the option of undertaking education commensurate with their aspirations, talents and commitment. I keep in mind that, of course, the school offers bursaries and scholarships for those who are perhaps less fortunate than others.

IGGS is a school of generations. It is a common story for grandmothers, mothers and close relatives to strive for the ideal for their children and grandchildren to attend the school to receive an all-round education experience with an emphasis on self-esteem. Mention ought to be made of the staff assisting the board: the school secretary and chief financial officer, Mr Donald Thams, and the deputy principal, Mrs Rhonda Nolan, who both have a great commitment to the school. I give due recognition to the capable and committed learning and support staff. *Omnia superat diligentia; diligence overcomes all.*