




Speech by

Tim Mulherin

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Hansard Thursday, 13 September 2012

MACKAY STATE HIGH SCHOOL, CENTENARY

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (1.22 am): On Saturday, 25 August I had the privilege of attending the Mackay State High School open day as part of its centenary celebrations. The centenary celebrations ran from Friday, 24 August to Sunday, 26 August 2012. Over this time various events were organised, including a centenary ball, and the celebration culminated in a sports carnival on the Sunday. The school conducted several events with students prior to the public events to mark this special milestone.

Mackay State High School opened on 5 February 1912 at the present-day TAFE college site in Alfred Street, Mackay. The original building still stands and is used by Mackay TAFE. The school moved to its present location in Milton Street in 1963. Mackay State High School was the first state high school to be opened in Mackay and commenced with 81 students enrolled. The first student enrolled was William Archbold, who has a direct descendant enrolled in year 9. The school currently has about 980 students. The school motto is 'labor vincit', which means 'work conquers'. For many of the school's past students, this motto has led them to take on distinguished leadership roles in the Mackay community, including the former member for Mackay, the late Mr Edmund Casey; the current member for Whitsunday, Mr Jason Costigan; the current federal member for Dawson, Mr George Christensen; and the current federal member for Capricornia, Ms Kirsten Livermore. Other past students include the former mayor of the Mackay Regional Council and current chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Board, Mr Col Meng; former deputy mayor Mr Darryl Camilleri, who is also a member of the Mackay Hospital and Health Board; and Councillor Diane Hatfield.

I congratulate the centenary committee for their work in organising this highly successful weekend. The committee comprised of Donna Drinkwater, the deputy principal and centenary committee chair; Jeff Shaw, the president of the P&C and open day committee; Leisa Shaw, the treasurer of the P&C; Kylie Parnicott, the centenary ball organiser and the organiser of memorabilia; Helen McCullagh, an organiser; Pauline Reedman, a former teacher and also the research assistant and organiser; Paul Vella, an organiser; Diane Cunningham, the centenary cookbook coordinator; Lindsay Hains, the alumni organiser; and, of course, the principal of the Mackay State High School, Steve Paulger.