




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 7 August 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mundingburra State School

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.48 pm): In the upcoming weeks a major milestone will take place in my home city of Townsville when the Mundingburra State School celebrates its 130th anniversary. It is a school that has a proud history but an even more prosperous future ahead. I pay tribute to principal Lesley Pecchiar and her dedicated band of teachers but, most importantly, the mums and dads who give this school a real vibe, a real sense of pride. It really is a beacon in the community.

The school opened on 22 September 1884. The original building consisted of only a single room constructed of hardwood with a large veranda. In its first week in September 1884 there were just 42 students enrolled at Mundingburra State School. At the time Mundingburra was an outlying area; it was a rural area. In many ways the school formed the hub which my community grew around. Its grounds housed one of the early wells that serviced not only the school but also many of the surrounding properties. It was installed for convenience as it saved the long walk down to Ross River. It is wonderful to think of a time when the school grounds were the hub of the community. We are starting to see that come back with a bit of commonsense in terms of the way our grounds are used by our communities. As surrounding suburbs urbanised, the school was used as a focus point for development. Testimony to this is that Ross River Road, today one of the city's largest arterial thoroughfares, runs at the front of the school.

The first headmaster, John Cunningham, arrived in Queensland from Scotland one week before starting work at Mundingburra State School. No doubt the climatic changes tested Principal Cunningham. In 1954 when uniforms were introduced for students, enrolments stood at 754. Former students include Libby Trickett, world-record-holding Olympic gold medallist, who did her schooling in the nineties; there was also W J Heatley, a former mayor of Townsville between 1926 and 1933; and Gordon Tallis was regularly seen honing his football skills while growing up a stone's throw from the school in Swales Street in Mundingburra.

The student numbers have been as high as 900 in 1952, increasing to more than a thousand in the early seventies. However, with the opening of additional schools in the area the enrolments have varied but stayed relatively consistent until in recent times. I am particularly proud of this. The school has seen an increase in numbers. It has been on the back of a couple of things: some urban renewal in that part of the city where young families have moved in, but also the great environment the school is providing for its student. In 2010 there were 573 students, 680 in the year after, 666 in 2012 and 697 in 2013. I look forward to the up-and-coming celebrations on 22 August and, as the school motto says, 'Act well your part'.