




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Hendra State School, Sesquicentenary

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (10.50 pm): I rise to inform the House of a celebration in my electorate: the 150th anniversary of the Hendra State School which took place on Sunday, 3 August 2014. I was pleased to represent the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, whose office was kind enough to provide me with a written speech, in case I did not know enough about the Hendra State School in order to say a few short words about that esteemed place of education and learning.

I was joined by the Principal, Mr Trevor Carr; Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, who is an alumnus of the district of Hendra but not of Hendra State School itself; Councillor David McLachlan, who used to train greyhounds in the area—he one day thought he could be a jockey but as soon as his legs touched the ground he realised that was not going to work; Councillor Kim Flessner, who is a past student of Hendra State School; and Mrs Lori Floden, who is president of the P&C.

It is tremendous to think that Hendra State School opened on 1 August 1864, just 4½ years after the state of Queensland was proclaimed. In fact the first enrolled pupil at Hendra State School was a Charles Gerler, a descendent of German missionaries who founded the German mission station up Nundah way in about 1837. In fact, Gerler Road at Hendra is named after the Gerler family, as Franz Road and quite a number of other roads in the district are based on those early German settlers. In fact, none of the first students spoke English; they all spoke German, having that German background. I do not think any of them would imagine that their small timber hall with 47 pupils would grow and prosper over many years into the beloved community school it is in 2014.

Hendra State School has become an integral part of the local community. Those in the racing industry certainly, with the stables area to the eastern side of Nudgee Road, have sent generations of students to Hendra State School. In fact, even today the school maintains a strong link with the racing fraternity. That history weaves its way into the present with the parents and citizens association organising the Riding to Success program, which provides all students with five weeks of horse lessons as part of the physical education program.

There have been many great occasions, perhaps none more so than on 17 September 1957, when a young student named Bob McCulloch was presented with the Lilley Medal, the Corporal French VC Prize and the EM Hanlon Bursary all on the same day after winning the awards at the state scholarship exams.

(Time expired)