



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Holland Park State High School**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (1.24 am): The year 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the publishing of *Alice in Wonderland*, the novel written by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who wrote under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It is considered by many to be a children's classic, but it is also exceedingly popular with adults. Many scholars argue that it is the best example of the genre known as literary nonsense. I suspect that it is a genre that we in this place could excel at if we turned our minds to it.

During this anniversary year, it is fitting that Holland Park State High School chose the story for its school production. Holland Park State High School has as its motto 'Learning, respect, cooperation'. All of those were on display when I recently attended a school production of *Alice*. It was a truly magnificent event from which my entire family gained a lot of joy. Students were involved in every aspect of the production: hospitality, ushering, back of house production, music, set design, costume making and, of course, acting. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, prior to the performance, added greatly to the evening.

The respect and cooperation shown by all students that we encountered were quite a natural part of the school community. Putting together a stage play requires a great deal of work, much cooperation and a great deal of respect for the roles that everyone has to play. The first word in the school motto, 'learning', was evident in every aspect of this production. The school community took the opportunity to include students in the production in ways that fitted with their interests. Students interested in construction and art built the sets. Students interested in design and fashion worked on the costumes. Students interested in music and sound engineering produced the wonderful music. Students interested in hospitality staged a fantastic Mad Hatter's Tea Party and kept us well provisioned at intermission.

The production reminded me of the value to a school community of focusing on the arts. I watched as my own children were enthralled by the production and I noted how the production fully absorbed the attention of all students involved. It reminded me of a Dodgsonesque quote by Thomas Merton, 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time'.

I congratulate the school principal, Jocelyn Roberts; the director, Diane Pashen; the main actors, Krystyna, Darcy, Drew and Georgia; and all involved in making this a wonderful event. This event truly brought the entire school community together and invited the broader community to participate.

Sadly, since I first wrote this speech, the school has suffered a serious attack by vandals. The manager from Public Works said it was the worst vandalism he has seen in over two decades. The damage I witnessed was extensive. I am very pleased to report that the school was open for business on the next school day. I would like to thank the staff from Education Queensland and Public Works for their mighty effort in getting the school operational. It is a testament to the strength of this school community that they were able to take this in their stride.