




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Archer State School, Parliament House Visit

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.55 am): I was absolutely delighted to welcome year 6 students from Mount Archer State School here at Parliament House recently. The year 6 students visited Parliament House on their annual year 6 camp. It is always a pleasure to welcome students from schools in my electorate to Parliament House, but this year 6 visit was very special to me personally because it was 17 years ago that I first visited Parliament House as a Mount Archer State School year 7 student. It is also especially touching given my Mum, Sharon McKee, has taught at Mount Archer State School for the past 23 years.

If a sign of a good school is the length of time the teaching staff remain employed there, then Mount Archer State School must be one of the best schools in Queensland. Many of the teachers who taught me at Mount Archer are still actively teaching there, including Mrs Flamank, Mrs Chong, Mr Swanson, Mrs McKee, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Hill.

I remember visiting Parliament House for the first time back in 1998 vividly. I was in awe of the parliament's beauty, history and grandeur. But it did not occur to me at the time that I would be here in this place, some 17 years later, representing the good people of Keppel. It is an honour to do so.

The year 6 Mount Archer students, their teachers and I had a wonderful morning together visiting and learning about the Legislative Council, the honour boards, the members' reading room, the mace, the wind yarn, the leadlight window and the Legislative Assembly. I thoroughly enjoyed the debate in the mock parliament in the chamber as to whether sport is better than playing video games. I admired the students playing their respective roles with passion and vigour.

I was impressed by the year 6 Mount Archer students' in-depth knowledge of our Westminster system, Queensland parliamentary history and processes. They knew the names of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker and the Governor of Queensland, they knew about the history of the abolition of the Queensland Legislative Council, they could name the Minister for Education, and, it is no easy feat for a year 6 student, they could even spell Palaszczuk.

To be honest, the students' knowledge is no surprise given the teaching expertise of Mrs Vicki Chong and Mr Peter Swanson—two senior, passionate and dedicated Mount Archer teachers who were also responsible for teaching me about government and politics all those years ago. Mrs Chong and Mr Swanson have a lifelong passion for teaching and that passion has been passed on to many of their students, myself included, over their decades of teaching at Mount Archer.

The parliamentary attendants were also impressed by the students' knowledge and their behaviour. In fact, one of the kind parliamentary attendants actually noted that the Mount Archer student group was the best group that had toured Parliament House this year. That is no easy feat given the vast number of students who tour through the parliament every year.

Congratulations and many thanks to the principal of Mount Archer State School, Lyn Hill, who was supported by senior teachers Vicki Chong, Peter Swanson, Amanda Kearney, Paul Corrin and school chaplain, Daniel Gordon. I hope you and the students thoroughly enjoyed your trip to Parliament House and I look forward to welcoming future year 6 students of Mount Archer State School, and students from all of the schools in my electorate, to Parliament House in the future.