




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Acacia Ridge State School, 150th Anniversary

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.15 pm): This year marks an important milestone for a school in my electorate of Algester. This year, Acacia Ridge State School is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Acacia Ridge State School, in the Algester electorate, has a rich and diverse history. Since 1869, it has taken on the important responsibility of educating the community's youngest members. The school started with one teacher, Fanny Stanbrough, who taught 26 students in a simple bark building. The school has now grown to more than 50 staff, 349 students and amazing infrastructure, including a full arts auditorium and expansive library.

For a time the school was known as the Coopers Plains State School, but its connection to the local area was recognised when it was reopened as Acacia Ridge State School in 1956. Over the years, the staff and parents have worked tirelessly to assist students to get the most out of their education and create a learning environment that supports the community more broadly. They have supported a thriving community reading hub, created an instrumental music program and glee club, and embraced STEM programs.

It has been a great privilege to represent a school with so much history and a school that has helped shape members of my community over many years and many generations. In fact, it is not uncommon for me to come across grandparents and parents at the many and varied school events and hear them talk about their students there as being the third generation who have attended the school. That is why, just like the community, the Palaszczuk government recognises that education is key to allowing that next generation to fully realise their capabilities and dreams. That is why we are committed to supporting schools just like Acacia Ridge State School in my electorate of Algester—to help students reach their full potential.

To mark the 150th anniversary, students have been learning about the school's history and the kinds of things past students were taught and how the school day 150 years ago compares to their daily routine today. To commemorate their contribution to the school's history, recently, students buried a time capsule filled with drawings of what they think life will be like in the future. This will be an interesting capture of time when the capsule is opened in another 25 years.

The school will also be hosting the Twilight Ridge Fest this Friday from 4 pm to 9 pm to celebrate its 150-year anniversary with the community. This event will be an opportunity for members of the community to reminisce about their memories of the school and explore the historical hub, which will showcase the school's history over the years. It will be amazing to celebrate this significant milestone with my community and I cannot wait to share in the memories, the milestones and the stories with past and present students, parents and teachers.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the principal, Nicole Collins, and the P&C president, Donna Wynn, and the school community on reaching this tremendous milestone. I wish the teachers, staff, students and parents a great night.