



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Glass House Electorate, School Celebrations

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.55 pm): It is raining milestone birthdays for the schools in the Glass House electorate.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Dr Rowan: Hear, hear!

Mr POWELL: 2021 is a big year for two schools at opposite ends of the electorate. In the north, Montville State School is celebrating its 125th anniversary today. The area we now know as Montville was first settled in the 1880s. The rich stands of timber attracted many a timber-getter and bullock team. As the land was cleared, fruit growers and dairy farmers moved in.

In this great publication compiled by Barbara Ramadge-Ross from research undertaken by Margaret and Russell Siddall for the centenary of the school, I loved reading the interplay between those settlers and the Department of Land and the Department of Public Instruction—first to get approval to set aside the land, then to build and open the school. In particular, after the locals constructed the first school building in August 1896, Mr Thorvald Weitemeyer wrote to please send ‘the Inspector, a cheque and a good Teacher as soon as at all convenient’.

Today the school and the broader community held a celebratory high tea. It is always difficult to single out individuals when organising a celebration of this nature, but I must acknowledge the principal, Adam Montgomery, and the P&C president, Simon Lutkin. One of the highlights of this year will be the period costume old time photographs of the staff and students, and that is all thanks to Simon. I also acknowledge Jaqueline Watkins, Doug Patterson and Cathy Kelly for updating that centenary book with *The Decades that Follow*. Thank you to the entire Montville State School P&C Association, the Montville Village Association, the Montville Chamber of Commerce, the Montville Historical Group, the Lions Club of the Blackall Range, staff, students and many, many businesses.

In the south, Wamuran State School is celebrating 100 years. Like Montville, Wamuran first welcomed timber-getters before dairy, bananas, tobacco, pineapples and strawberries took over. Originally known as Waraba, the town took its name from a local Aboriginal leader, Menvil Wanmaurn, when the railway to Woodford was constructed. After very humble beginnings, the school is now home to more than 320 students who will be enjoying the centenary celebrations on Saturday, 16 October.

As well as acknowledging the efforts of the principal, Lisa Cutter, can I also pass on my thanks to the amazing community representatives who have helped bring the celebrations together: Estelle Cuffe, the centenary committee chairperson who has coordinated the planning of this milestone event; Amy Wilschefski, for her countless hours documenting the history of the Wamuran community and school in the *Wamuran State School Centenary Book*; and president Ailsa Moorhead and treasurer Hilary Berger from the Wamuran Historical and Visitor Centre and Old Wam School for their tireless efforts.

It is a huge happy birthday to Montville and Wamuran state schools. I acknowledge the earlier hear, hears from both the Minister for Education and the shadow minister for education. Here's to decades more of outstanding educational opportunities for our local kids.