




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Brookfield State School, 150th Anniversary

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.13 pm): As the shadow minister for education and the state member for Moggill, it gives me great pleasure to rise and formally acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Brookfield State School ahead of the official celebrations to be held this Saturday. Brookfield State School had its beginnings 150 years ago, opening on 27 March 1871 as the Brookfield Provisional School. Two acres of land had been donated by Mr JW Barnett. As was typical of early schools established in Queensland, the then Brookfield Provisional School was founded by the local community through the then Brookfield Bible Christian Movement, the forebears of what is now the Brookfield Uniting Church. The establishment of this school in Brookfield would ultimately lay the foundation for Brookfield State School's extensive history of close community engagement and active support for students, families and other local groups.

Such community engagement was evident last Sunday at the non-denominational thanksgiving service organised and supported by all local churches in the Kenmore-Brookfield area. Brookfield State School boasts a proud history of 35 principals over the last 150 years, with the school today being led by Mrs Cate Whiting, who is assisted by two deputy principals, Mrs Katie Lewis and Mrs Leah Cathcart. These experienced and well-respected educators have a whole-of-child approach to schooling, focusing on the individual needs of each and every student. The celebrations of Brookfield State School's 150th anniversary have been ongoing throughout the year, and the festivities have been overseen by Mrs Shona Fisher and Mrs Katie Lewis, who were tasked to create a year to remember and a year that would be fitting of such a significant milestone. The festivities commenced with a commemorative assembly in March of this year and featured the oldest past and youngest present students cutting a cake made especially for the occasion.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the many teachers, parents, volunteers and committee members who have helped organise the celebrations this year. Such committees have included: Mrs Alison Hoole, Dr Neil Mudford, Ms Kirrily Hoole, Ms Sandy Golda and Mrs Shona Fisher, who were tasked with compiling a book to celebrate the 150-year journey of the school. As the local state member for Moggill, I was honoured to be invited to contribute and write the official foreword to this book. With over 144 pages, this book took many hours of research, meetings, writing and photography. It will be launched at the Back to Brookfield event to be held at the school this Saturday, 16 October 2021. An official ceremony at the school will be attended by His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC CVO, the 26th Governor of Queensland. His Excellency will unveil a plaque and plant a tree to commemorate this occasion.

I offer my congratulations to the entire Brookfield State School community, including staff, students and parents on this wonderful and auspicious anniversary, and I invite all local residents and members of the Queensland parliament to visit Brookfield State School this Saturday to join in these important festivities.