




Speech By
Hon. Di Farmer

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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ADJOURNMENT

Balmoral State High School

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.09 pm): We are all so proud of Balmoral State High School in my local community. Seeing it go from strength to strength, particularly in recent years, has been one of the greatest pleasures of my role as the member for Bulimba. I have often taken the opportunity to speak in this House about this wonderful school and now they have done something else amazing that I need to share and that is the way they have developed their new house system to honour past students, particularly those who have made a major contribution to the community.

In May 2021 there was a community vote to rename the houses based on those criteria and as a result the four new houses are Wilson, Tunstall, Coffey and Toyne. I want to share a little bit about why those names were chosen. I am absolutely delighted that two members of the Coffey family are actually in the gallery tonight: Ray and his daughter Renee. It is absolutely wonderful to have them here to listen to this. Coffey house was named specifically after Dennis Coffey whose world record for flight and his involvement with bringing touch football to Australia are very strong and amazing achievements. However, I also want to mention that Ray Coffey was a foundation student of Balmoral High in 1958. Ray and Dennis' sister Lexanne and their brother Trevor also attended Balmoral High. Renee's older brother Blair also attended. In fact, Ray met his wife Dianne at Balmoral State High School. Ray is very active in the Balmoral State High School Alumni Association.

Jim Tunstall is another foundation student and the long-serving president of the Balmoral State High School Alumni Association. He had a distinguished career in education, culminating in his appointment as director of the Queensland School Curriculum Council. Vicky Wilson, who many of us know, attended Murarrie State School and Balmoral High and she is well known for her accomplishments in netball. At the time of her retirement from representative sport she was the world's greatest goal shooter in netball and the only Australian player to have played in four world championships. Toyne house is named after Fay Toyne who was an accomplished tennis player. She played 44 Wimbledon championships and at the time of her retirement she returned with such success that today she would have been ranked in the top 10 tennis players in the world.

The naming of the houses after these people is an amazing acknowledgement of their achievements. For the students at Balmoral High today to have such role models in front of them is the most wonderful recognition of the principle of 'you cannot be what you cannot see'. I congratulate the house leaders, Julia, Ethan, Kate, Nicholas, Clea, Madeline, Kaden and Pacey, who I know are going to do their houses proud.