



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Runcorn State School, 120-year Anniversary; World Teachers' Day

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise to talk about the Runcorn State School, which celebrated its 120th anniversary on 15 October. I was pleased to be able to share in their celebrations. The community was very excited and proud to be a part of the ongoing history of the school. The event program noted some of the highlights of the growth of the school over the past 120 years. The school is very different now to when it first commenced.

The school was opened on 8 July 1901 at the request of the citrus, pineapple and poultry farmers of the Runcorn and Sunnybank area. The school was located where two bush tracks crossed and the 25 students walked to and from school, some from as far away as eight kilometres. There were no cars, no electricity, no sewerage and no water supply in the area. A train went to Brisbane city once a day. In 1920 swimming lessons were held in the lagoons at the end of Dunedin Street as well as at the quarry near Archerfield. Students had to run to the quarry and the teachers rode their push bikes.

In 1932, the school got electricity and during 1942 an air-raid shelter was dug in the school grounds. At the sound of the siren the kids would have to rush out and hide in the air-raid shelter. The history program noted that there was never a need for the air-raid shelter to be used. In 1960 town water and sewerage were connected to the area and the school.

Currently the school has 458 students, 19 classes from prep to year 6 and over 50 staff. I acknowledge Michelle D'Netto, the principal of Runcorn State School, her hardworking staff and the students and parents of the school. It is fitting that I get this opportunity to talk about the Runcorn State School's celebrations with tomorrow being World Teachers' Day. I take this opportunity to wish all the teachers in my electorate a wonderful World Teachers' Day. The celebrations held at the school showcased the diversity of the school, with many multicultural groups performing. It was a great event.