




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge State High School 50-Year Anniversary

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (8.44 pm): Fifty years ago, Gough Whitlam became the Prime Minister of Australia, Richard Nixon went to China, and in January 1972 at 323 Wembley Road, the newly opened Woodridge State High School admitted its first students. By January 1974, just two years later, Woodridge State High School had become the largest in Queensland with 1,689 students, driven by an influx of migrants seeking a new and better life in our state.

Much has changed in our local area since 1972, but Woodridge State High School continues to be a place where students of all backgrounds are welcomed and all are encouraged to reach their full potential. That is why I was delighted to join over 150 guests at a gala ball to celebrate Woodridge State High School's 50th anniversary on Saturday, 22 October 2022. It was great to see 38 foundation students attend the event, along with alumni and staff from across five decades of education. Former deputy principals Casey Thomsen and Trent Cowley, who continue to be great local educators, and foundation students Ken Palmer and Roger Mulder hosted the event, with a wonderful acknowledgement of country delivered by students. Those gathered heard from former principals Barry Kuskopf, Les O'Gorman and Helen Jamiesen, former deputy principal Jim Lucey, and current principal Kathleen Janecek. I congratulate everyone involved in organising the celebration, especially Kellie King and Nicola Stachurski from the school events and marketing team.

I also want to commend the current students of Woodridge State High School for their energy, enthusiasm and community spirit. Across a range of fields, students continue to excel. It was wonderful to see 13 current students assisting the gala caterers, Cuisine on Cue, as part of their hospitality studies. They are a credit to their school and to their head of department, Katrina Zagaglioni.

Recently, the Woodridge State High School debating team joined me here at parliament to gain a closer understanding of Queensland's democracy. Tonight I want to make special mention of the school's year 10 boys' volleyball team for their outstanding success over the year. Team members originate from five different countries. They came together to win the South-East Queensland metropolitan finals and the Queensland Schools Cup, division 1 gold, before going on to become Australian Volleyball School Cup champions. Because of their success, the team were recognised as the Logan Sports Team of the Year at the recent 2022 City of Logan Sports Awards. Congratulations to team members Amir Alizadeh, Ethan Boznanski, Matthew Cordtz, Amir Mohammadi, Soheil Nabizadeh, Po Reh Po Reh, Peh Bu Prasesako, Ahmedin Tamiru Kaba, Tha Re Tha Re, Jonah Wright, Nae Reh Nae Reh, and captain Elijah Time-Riri. Congratulations also to coach Steve Harris for the team's success.

Congratulations once again to Woodridge State High School students, teachers, parents and school community on your golden jubilee. Best wishes for the next 50 years.