



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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THORNLANDS STATE SCHOOL

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (10.04 pm): Thornlands State School on South Street, Thornlands, is a thriving school with approximately 600 students in the primary school and 100 students in the full-day preschool. The school is proud of its long tradition in servicing the educational needs of the district and encourages students to take a keen interest in sport, the environment and cultural activities.

Thornlands State School was officially opened on 15 October 1910. The first teacher, Miss M Fielding, was appointed on 24 October. On 1 November the first student was enrolled. By the end of that week, a total of 14 children had been enrolled and 100 years of state government education in Thornlands had begun.

On 16 and 17 October 2010, a weekend of celebrations will take place at Thornlands State School to commemorate the official opening of the school in 1910 and to showcase 100 years of education at Thornlands. In that time, the school has been well served by various principals, teachers, staff and P&Cs. Many thousands of students have been successfully educated at the school.

Mr Bradley French is the acting principal and Jan Burton and Jane Barnett are the deputy principals. P&C president, Mark Spreadborough, and the P&C Association Centenary Committee have invited all past and present students, parents, staff and members of the community to participate in the celebrations.

The school is situated in a pleasant natural environment and children are encouraged to care for the native plants and animals. The school considers itself fortunate to be in a koala zone and regularly has visits from koalas, as well as other wildlife. The abundance of native trees and shrubs ensures that the school is also home to a wide range of native birds, including lorikeets and parrots.

The school's facilities and amenities have been expanded over the century. The school's oval provides facilities for many healthy activities such as football, cricket, tennis and swimming, to name a few. Situated near the oval is a versatile multipurpose hall that readily accommodates all students. During lunchtimes, students are able to use the hall for various teacher-led activities, including games, discos and the famous Thornlands Idol. I have had the good luck of being able to participate in the more recent practice of Thornlands Idol. Young dancing and singing talent are displayed, with judges looking for the X factor. After-hours, the hall is utilised by various sporting and community groups. The library is open daily to all students and children are encouraged to borrow from the stock held.

I look forward to the celebrations that start earlier than the big weekend. The program starts with a launch, 'Back to Thornlands', then a centenary concert, open day and the finale weekend of the school reunion and showcase, gala dinner/dance and family picnic day to cap things off. My congratulations to the Thornlands State School community. May your next 100 years be even more prosperous and significant.