

WATTLE GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield) [12.22 pm]: Almost 100 years ago, on 19 July 1915, a young teacher, Miss Amy Fitzgerald, opened the Wattle Grove School in a hall on the corner of Welshpool Road and William Street with second-hand desks and 19 children ranging from infants to sixth grade. The hall was unsealed and extremely cold and draughty, with the rain and piercing wind blowing in through the weatherboards. It was prone to flooding in winter, but in summer the temperature soared with the heat striking through the hot iron roof. Lessons were on slates and water came from a tank—when it was full. Earlier this year, I visited what is now known as Wattle Grove Primary School with the Minister for Education, and, I must say, upon seeing the school, visiting some of the classrooms and talking with some of the students and staff, that the school certainly has come a long way, and I can see why Wattle Grove Primary School is the Western Australian Primary School of the Year. The minister and I paid a visit to the primary academic and multi-age academic classes from Wattle Grove, which I have spoken about in this house previously. They showed us some of the language, mathematics and engineering skills they are honing thanks to their brilliant teacher, Mr Carl Sanderson. We were blown away by their knowledge and very impressed with not only the high standard of their learning, but also the high standards they hold themselves to. This sort of diligence is producing great results and I encourage all students to keep up the good work. We visited a number of other classrooms and met with staff and students, as well as having the opportunity to sit down and speak directly with the school's student leaders. The students spoke with great pride about their school and shared some of the school's history as well as what they have planned for the centenary celebrations. As the WA Primary School of the Year and celebrating its 100th anniversary, Wattle Grove Primary School has so much to be proud of and to showcase. I wish all the families and staff another 100 years of success as the Wattle Grove Primary School community.