

OCEAN REEF PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [12.54 pm]: I speak today to commend one of my local primary schools, SSS Ocean Reef. SSS stands for state school ship. Ocean Reef Primary School opened in 1988, with John Thompson as its principal. Mr Thompson dreamed up the idea of giving the school a theme by which to operate. Of course, it was a nautical theme due to the location of the school in the beachside suburb of Ocean Reef. The theme has served the school well. The administration block is described as the bridge and the three teaching blocks are described as the port, starboard and stern. This nautical theme continues today under the stewardship of the current principal, David Bryant. The theme has proved so successful for the school that it now has a traditional naval drum corps. The corps practises weekly under instruction from Australian Navy band member Leading Seaman Peter Cobb, and has performed at a number of events, including the school's Anzac Day ceremony, interschool sporting events, Education Week 2001 at Arena Joondalup, the district principals' breakfast and the Joondalup festival parade. The corps now marches and drums behind its drum major, who holds the mace donated by the inmates from Casuarina Prison. Last Friday night the corps held a fundraiser, again in typical naval tradition of a ceremonial sunset and wardroom dinner. The corps consists of Drum Major Kristen Plati, and Drummers Joshua Thevarajoo, Kallum Bryan, Jack De Groot, Jarem Edwards, Rhys Booth, Cassie Hasan, Amanda Fenlon, Ben Lloyd, Tara Saumba and David Fasalo. This group of young people is a credit to the school and should be commended for its efforts.