

BEACONSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Fremantle

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [12.50 pm]: In 1889, the parents of Beaconsfield applied to the Department of Education to build a school in the local area. Despite the guarantee of 64 children by 22 parents, a year later a site still had not been found. A Presbyterian hall in Leah Street—now Baker Street, near the corner of South Street and Hampton Road—was hired for £15 and used as a temporary site for lessons for what is now Beaconsfield Primary School, which will this weekend hold its 125th anniversary celebrations. The school later moved further down Hampton Road, to the corner of Lefroy Road—it is now the education department’s regional office—and later to the site of the current school on Hale Street. A huge effort has been put in by organisers to get in touch with past students from over the decades. Some events linking past and current students have already been held, but the focus will be this Saturday, when photo boards from the 1920s onwards will be used to remind past students of their time at “Beacy” primary school playing cricket on Hampton Road, digging war trenches on the bottom oval, having swimming lessons at South Beach and dipping girls’ pigtailed into inkwells. Past students of Beaconsfield Primary School include former Mayor of Fremantle, William McKenzie, former Minister for Education in the Whitlam government, Kim Beazley Senior, and recently deceased Aboriginal elder Mr Hume. Big credit goes to the parents and staff for organising the day, but I make special mention of Vicki Tinley and Nikki Bowyer. Everyone who comes along will get a taste for what has been and still is a fantastic school community.