

RAVENSTHORPE CULTURAL PRECINCT

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.53 pm]: I welcome students and staff from St Patrick's School, Katanning.

September is always a busy month for Ravensthorpe, with its annual wildflower show drawing people from far and wide to immerse themselves in the region's natural beauty, but Monday, 11 September was a particularly special day for the Shire of Ravensthorpe, with over 100 people gathering to celebrate the official opening of the new cultural precinct. Years of dedication and dreaming big led to the unveiling of the timber buildings that will allow this already creative regional centre to blossom well into the future.

Ravensthorpe shire president Keith Dunlop and past president and honorary freeman of the shire Ian Goldfinch unveiled the plaque to officially open the precinct—described by Mr. Goldfinch as something the whole community could enjoy and be proud of. The precinct's opening was a community event. Guests enjoyed a beautiful performance of *Waltzing Matilda* by the Ravensthorpe Primary Choir and music from Paige Valentine. Andy Chapman from the Ravensthorpe Historical Society spoke about the site's history. The shire's CEO, Matthew Bird, who oversaw the building to its completion, believes the project is a defining acknowledgement of the strength of the community. The cultural precinct is a credit to all involved. In just over 12 months, the Shire of Ravensthorpe council's project manager, Natalie Bell, and head contractor, Devlyn Construction, led a team that has transformed a community dream into a reality. During the opening ceremony, the design team, led by Peter Hobbs Architects, was congratulated on creating a building that fits perfectly within the shire's environment. The region is recognised as having some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world.