

TRINITY COLLEGE — FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement

HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (Agricultural) [5.20 pm]: On 22 September, I had the pleasure of attending the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the establishment of Trinity College on land adjoining the Western Australian Cricket Association ground and Gloucester Park.

Trinity College was established with the closure in 1961 of the Christian Brothers College Perth campus located at the intersection of Adelaide and St Georges Terrace and Victoria Avenue. CBC Perth had been a significant educational institution in the Perth CBD since 1894. In 1938, with increasing demand for more suitable boarding facilities, Aquinas College was established at Salter Point. Aquinas College subsequently took CBC Perth's red and black colours along with the boarders. CBC Perth then adopted the green and two blues colours now famous at Trinity. In the modern era there is intense rivalry between Trinity and Aquinas. That rivalry, however, is tempered by the fact that the two schools have a unique and shared history. Both Trinity and Aquinas, for instance, can proudly claim Western Australia's very first test cricketer—namely, Ernie Bromley.

Currently, in excess of 1 200 students attend Trinity College from year 4 to year 12. The curriculum is broad, catering for many diverse interests, but all the time a Trinity College education focuses proudly on four pillars—faith, academic, cultural and sport. A particularly significant event in the school's history occurred in 2011 with the awarding of the Beazley Medal to Calum Braham. Calum is the first Catholic school pupil to ever be awarded the medal, recognising the fact that he achieved the state's highest results in the Western Australian Certificate of Education exams, formerly known as the TEE.

The fiftieth anniversary reunion and celebration was attended by some 500 old boys, former headmasters and teachers. The most senior of the old boys attended CBC Perth in 1941. I am pleased to report that foundation headmaster Brother Tony Kelly—Jak to all of his past students—attended the function and celebrated his ninety-second birthday in style. Many other former staff members attended, including former headmasters, Brother John Carrigg, Mr Tony Curtis and Brother Basil Hickey; along with Brother Pat Cronin, Brother Michael Coughlin, Brother Brian Cleary, Brother Geoff Seaman, Mr Bernie Tobin, Brother Terry Casey, Brother Peter Negus, Brother Laurie Negus, Brother Pat Kelly, Brother Rob Callen and Brother Peter Hardiman. Apart from Brother Kelly's ninety-second birthday, the other real highlight of the evening was the dedication of an honour board commemorating the passing of some 66 old boys in World War I. In future years, all old boys who have served their country and paid the ultimate price will likewise be honoured.

Trinity College and CBC Perth have a long and proud history. Many old boys have distinguished themselves in sporting, academic, political and other fields of interest. It would be remiss of me not to mention some who have made great contributions since their schooldays. With the indulgence of the house, I commence with current and former MPs, notably Hon Graham Edwards, Hon Nick Griffiths, Mr Michael Keenan, Mr Vince Catania, Mr Chris Tallentire, Hon Chris Ellison and yours truly, Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm. Other notable old boys include Michael Brennan, Michael Edgely, Justin Bianchini, Dave Faulkner, Simon Katich, Craig Serjeant, Mick Malone, John Steffensen, Henk Vogels, Gerard Holohan, Tim Zoehrer, Gary Malarkey, John O'Connell, John Osborn, Andrew Embley, Kevin Carton, the Pearce brothers and many, many more. It is interesting to note that former Trinity footballers dominate AFL player lists, particularly at the West Coast Eagles. One can only hope for a continuation on both accounts.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the contribution of the school and the headmaster, Ivan Banks, in support of the event. I would also like to thank the Trinity Old Boys' Association executive, including Darren Taggart and Diane Millar for their outstanding efforts in putting together a most memorable night. I look forward to many more.