



Longreach State School Assembly
Wednesday 18 August 2010, 9am

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice**

Mrs Rayner, teachers, boys and girls,

I am really very pleased to return this morning, with great nostalgic fondness, to the school I attended in the late 1950's. You are fortunate, boys and girls, to attend such a fine school. I share your pride.

I return with very affectionate memories of my time here. My father was head teacher and my mother was my class teacher for a time – although I am absolutely sure I was given no special privileges.

My memory is of a very friendly human environment, which I hope is what you experience today: good friends, helpful teachers, pleasant school grounds and a vibrant school spirit.

I have never forgotten the Latin words of the school motto: *virtute et labore*: which roughly translate to virtue or goodness, and toil or effort. If you work hard at school, and try to be good human beings, you will be well on the road to a successful and fulfilling life.

I particularly recall a train journey to Winton for an inter-school swimming carnival. It was on that train trip that the teachers especially worked together to compose the words of the first school song, set to the tune “Men of Harlech”, and they included these lines which have never left my memory:

“Virtute et labore
we strive for fame and glory
If we work
and do not shirk
then we will have a glorious celebration.”



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How true that is, and we see a wonderful echo in the chorus of the current school song:

“We all here at Longreach State School
Are reaching far and wide
We’re striving hard to do our best
In our school we take much pride”

I was very moved by the last two lines of the third verse of the 2006 song:

“We are so proud of Longreach school
And we love our country town”

Boys and girls, Ilfracombe has produced our nation’s current Governor-General, and Longreach can lay claim to our current State Chief Justice.

With diligence and careful application to doing the very best you can, you too can reach high levels of achievement. I sincerely hope you do.

I hope you do because I believe our Queensland community is best served if we can harness the talents of people who exhibit the qualities which come from an upbringing in the country: abundant common sense, a deep sense of fairness, respect for the land, an abiding sense of true mateship, and a real capacity to deal with challenging difficult situations in day to day life.

Enjoy your time at school, and make the most of it. Whatever your final destination in life, you will ultimately be content, if you know in your heart that you have always done your best. And that is essentially what I hope for each and every one of you.

For the Longreach community, I hope that one day our State will boast another Chief Justice who hails from the Central West. And that Chief Justice could be one of you.

Now in my youth, when the Governor or the Premier or the Minister for Education visited the school, they would grant a day’s holiday. I am afraid you only have the Chief Justice here today. Although I can send offenders to jail, even a Chief Justice cannot give you a



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day's freedom from school. But then again, why would you want a day off from a school as good as this one?

I am really honoured that you have assembled specially this morning to listen to me. It has been a great privilege for me to speak to such an impressive group of young people, exhibiting such potential to achieve highly.

I sincerely wish each and every one of you well, and I also congratulate your teachers and your parents on their important contribution to your development.