

Craig Emerson MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR RANKIN

Local and Proud



THIRD TRADE TRAINING CENTRE FOR LOGAN STUDENTS



Crestmead's St Francis College will receive \$1.5 million from the Rudd Government for a trade training centre with a focus on horticulture and hospitality.

St Francis College now joins other successful applicants Marsden State High School and Springwood State High School as trade training centres in the Rankin electorate.

Trade training centres are vitally important for students considering apprenticeships in horticulture, hospitality, automotive manufacturing, metal manufacturing and construction industries.

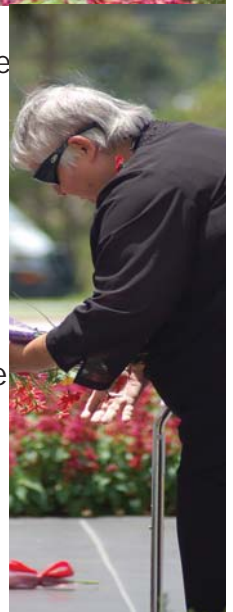
Work on the St Francis trade training centre is expected to start in 2010

**WE REMEMBER
LEST WE FORGET**



Remembrance Day Services were held throughout Logan City on 11 November 2009.

I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to say a few words during the service and lay a wreath at the centotaph in Logan Central with other members of the community.



FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

Excerpt from Prime Minister Rudd's speech 16 November 2009

We come together today to deal with an ugly chapter in our nation's history.

And we come together today to offer our nation's apology.

To say to you, the Forgotten Australians, and those who were sent to our shores as children without your consent, that we are sorry.

Sorry – that as children you were taken from your families and placed in institutions where so often you were abused.

Sorry – for the physical suffering, the emotional starvation and the cold absence of love, of tenderness, of care.

Sorry – for the tragedy of childhoods lost – childhoods spent instead in austere and authoritarian places, where names were replaced by numbers, spontaneous play by regimented routine, the joy of learning by the repetitive drudgery of menial work.

Sorry – for all these injustices to you as children, who were placed in our care.

As a nation, we must now reflect on those who did not receive proper care. We look back with shame that many of you were left cold, hungry and alone and

with nowhere to hide and nobody to whom to turn.

We look back with shame that many of these little ones who were entrusted to institutions and foster homes – instead, were abused physically, humiliated cruelly and violated sexually.

We look back with shame at how those with power were allowed to abuse those who had none.

And how then, as if this was not injury enough, you were left ill-prepared for life outside – left to fend for yourselves; often unable to read or write; to struggle alone with no friends and no family.

For these failures to offer proper care to the powerless, the voiceless and the most vulnerable, we say sorry.

We reflect too today on the families who were ripped apart, simply because they had fallen on hard times.

Hard times brought about by illness, by death and by poverty.

Some simply left destitute when fathers, damaged by war, could no

longer cope.

Again we say sorry for the extended families you never knew.

We acknowledge the particular pain of children shipped to Australia as child migrants - robbed of your families, robbed of your homeland, regarded not as innocent children but regarded instead as a source of child labour.

To those of you who were told you were orphans, brought here without your parents' knowledge or consent, we acknowledge the lies you were told, the lies told to your mothers and fathers, and the pain these lies have caused for a lifetime.

To those of you separated on the dockside from your brothers and sisters; taken alone and unprotected to the most remote parts of a foreign land – we acknowledge today the laws of our nation failed you.

And for this we are deeply sorry.

For a full copy of the Prime Minister's statement please contact my office.

