



**Cowell school achieving excellence
12 May 2005**

Cowell has a school of excellence that is providing students with high quality education, enabling them to develop into adults with fulfilled and active lives, Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said after her visit to Cowell Area School on May 10.

Mrs Penfold was impressed with the scope of practical aquaculture studies offered, which range from raising oysters to marron and ornamental fish for aquariums.

“While Cowell Area School has developed aquaculture as a principal focus, other pathways lead to automotive, construction, hospitality, retail and tourism industries, or to further education at university or TAFE level.

Mrs Penfold said the aquaculture focus at Cowell and the agricultural focus at Cleve Area School provided local students with a variety of career options not found in metropolitan secondary schools.

“I was also impressed with how the students at Cowell were all immaculately presented in school uniform,” she said.

Mrs Penfold visited the boarding facility, currently housing six students, with expansion for a further five students now underway.

“I recall my own days as a boarder at the Bush Church Aid Hostel in Port Lincoln and I envy the privacy and facilities that these students enjoy,” she said.

“I congratulate the principal Graeme Stacey, the staff, the parents and the community on an excellent educational institution that is not only a credit to all concerned but which also instils pride in the town and district.

“My visit was one of those highlights which make my job, which is sometimes frustrating, into a great pleasure,” she said.