



Mullewa school secures funding

Historic repairs

MEGAN BAILEY

OUR Lady of Mt Carmel School in Mullewa has successfully secured more than \$132,000 in funding to keep its history alive.

The grant money, which was given by Lotterywest, will be used to repair and preserve the historical stonework on its administration building.

Member for the Agricultural region, Brian Ellis MLC, presented the cheque to school principal Andrea Moyses on Wednesday.

Mr Ellis said he was passionate about preserving the state's heritage, especially when it would benefit the community as well.

"I take a great interest

in the settlers and pioneers of our state," he said.

"When people want to preserve an old building it is well worth getting the funds to maintain them.

"I wanted to make a point of presenting the cheque to the school.

"Mullewa has been through some tough times recently with the droughts and they are battling to keep people in the community."

Ms Moyses said many generations of people had been educated at the school since its foundation in 1914 and the restoration of the wall meant the building would continue to be usable for more generations to come.

"This is a wonderful

help to the school," she said.

"It's only a small school with about 80 students and to restore a heritage-listed building would have taken a huge amount out of our school's budget — we are very grateful.

"There was a restoration project done 10 years ago and at the time it was the right decision but this is a long-term solution."

Ms Moyses acknowledged the community members who helped make the funding possible, including chair of the school board Stephany Keeffe, Father Michael Morrissey and Miriam Barnetson, who she said was instrumental in her work on the application

for the grant.

The history of some of the stone buildings in Mullewa dates back to the early 20th century.

The school was established by the Presentation Sisters and forms part of Mullewa's heritage trail, which also includes numerous churches in the Mid West built by priest and renowned architect Monsignor John Hawes.

Mr Ellis said it was easy for West Australians living in the city to forget where they came from.

"A lot of the time we hear about the buildings that need to be preserved in Perth (but it was) the pioneers that created the wealth of the state so that cities like Perth could be developed," he said.