



Speech by

**JOHN ENGLISH**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

---

Hansard 4 December 2001

### **EPRAPAH HERITAGE MUSEUM**

**Mr ENGLISH** (Redlands—ALP) (11.56 a.m.): On Sunday, 2 December I had the pleasure of attending the opening of an extension to the Eprapah Heritage Museum. The extension of the Eprapah Heritage Museum was made available due to funding through the Queensland government's Centenary of Federation funds. I would certainly like to acknowledge the good work performed by the volunteers of the Eprapah scout fellowship in completing this extension and adding to what is a fantastic facility which highlights the local fauna, flora and cultural significance of the area.

As pleasurable as that event was, I believe the highlight of the function was when Mrs Joslin Eatts spoke to the assembled group on behalf of the Maiwali and Karuwali Aboriginal people in the electorate of Gregory. For 70 years the Scout Association of Australia has had in its possession a breastplate that belonged to King Jimmy Howard, the King of Diamantina. However, they do not how this breastplate made its way into the possession of the Scout Association of Australia. Breastplates were handed down by our colonial ancestors in an attempt to instil some kind of colonial order and prestige on the local Aboriginal population.

Jimmy Howard was also traditionally known as Jimmy Bogie. He was a 'magic man' of high degree in traditional law of the Maiwali clan. Bogie's area included the Karuwali country, which includes the Farrars Creek area and the bottom end of the Diamantina River. He worked throughout the area on stations and conducted spiritual and cultural tribal law throughout the land. He was also a very gifted stockman and always conducted himself with pride and dignity. After settlement, due to native affairs involvement and controlling laws that prevented Bogie from continuing to practise traditional beliefs and rituals, in 1884 he was awarded the breastplate by some of the colonial people of the area as a reward. Bogie remained on the Diamantina station until his death in 1921.

For the past 70 years, Bogie's breastplate has been in the possession of the Scout Association of Australia. Mrs Joslin Eatts, an historian of the Maiwali and Karuwali people, sought to track down the seven known breastplates awarded to members of those tribes. It is a credit to her commitment to finding the breastplates and also a tribute to the Australian scouting movement and its high ideals and beliefs that, when approached by Mrs Joslin Eatts, the Eprapah scout group was happy to hand over King Bogie's breastplate to the traditional owners. The official handing over took place on 28 June this year and was conducted by Mrs Beatrice Stone on behalf of the Queensland scouting movement.

In her speech on Sunday, Mrs Joslin Eatts complimented the scout movement for the ease of the transaction. This was an acknowledgment on behalf of the Queensland scouting movement and the Queensland people that we recognise the injustices committed against Aboriginal people and that as a small recompense we can hand back the items that we stole from their traditional owners.

I compliment the Queensland scout movement for undertaking this exercise so smoothly. I encourage anyone who holds any of the six outstanding breastplates to return them to the Maiwali and Karuwali people. They should do the right thing and return them to their traditional owners.

---