



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

PIONEERS OF CHERMSIDE

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.53 pm): As part of Queensland's sesquicentenary celebrations, I recently had the privilege—

Mr Reeves: What was that again?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Sesquicentenary—I take that interjection. I recently had the privileged of attending the Burnie Brae Centre to unveil a public artwork created to honour early pioneering families of Chermshire. The Chermshire and District Senior Citizens Centre, better known as the Burnie Brae Centre, was successful in obtaining \$10,000 in Q150 community funding towards this commemorative public artwork.

Historic photos of the early pioneering families of Chermshire have now been embedded in a timber and iron public mosaic on the archway entrance to the Burnie Brae community garden. The public artwork is made up of two panels—one each on the side of the entrance to the archway. As well as historic photographs, it depicts the keys to the Burnie Brae homestead and early equipment like the crosscut saw. The photographs were sourced from the State Library of Queensland, the Chermshire and District Historical Society as well as individuals in the local community.

Both I and the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the member for Nudgee, Neil Roberts, were delighted to be a part of the occasion. While the Burnie Brae Centre now falls in the electorate of Minister Roberts, it had for a long time been part of the Stafford electorate prior to the recent redistribution. I am still in regular contact with many members of the Chermshire and District Senior Citizens Centre.

Known in the 1950s as Downfall Creek, Chermshire was an important district of farmers and traders. This year, as we celebrate the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, it seems only right that we pay our respects to families like the Hamiltons, the Argos, the Fishers, the Staibs and the Chesneys. Pioneers like them were celebrated today through this unique public artwork created by local artist Jamie McLean on behalf of the Chermshire and District Senior Citizens Centre.

I congratulate the Chermshire and District Senior Citizens Centre for its efforts in applying for the funding to bring this project about. It involved a whole range of people in the community. I congratulate all of them. I particularly want to commend the main contributors to the project including Beverley Isedale of the Chermshire and District Historical Society; Jean Vernez, from the Chermshire and District Senior Citizens Centre; and Kevin Rouse, the manager of the Burnie Brae Centre. This is just another way that the Bligh government is helping to encourage the community to appreciate its connections right across each and every corner of our great state and to celebrate 150 years since our separation from New South Wales.