




Speech by

Tim Mulherin

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ANDREW, MR C

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.10 pm): I had the honour of being one of the speakers at the funeral of Cedric Andrew last Friday, 26 October 2012. Cedric Andrew was a much loved member of the Mackay South Sea Islander community and the wider community who passed away on 16 October at the age of nearly 102. It was a sad occasion but also a joyous occasion as we gathered to celebrate the wide and varied life of our great, dear friend Cedric Andrew.

I have known Cedric and his family for decades and helped celebrate his 100th birthday last year. The wonderful thing about having known someone like Cedric is that he was a true legend of the Mackay community. Cedric was a listener and a communicator and had great stories about the many changes he had seen over the generations in our community. Cedric was a proud family man and is survived by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Cedric and his family have made a huge contribution to telling the history of South Sea Islanders in Mackay to academics and the wider community by sharing their knowledge and culture. His willingness to share his quiet wisdom and understanding, gleaned over more than a century of just living, means that part of Cedric will live on in the Mackay community.

Every time people in Mackay cross the Cedric Andrew Bridge over Sandy Creek—he was born on the banks of that creek—they will be reminded of the strengths and the values that Cedric brought to this community. Those future generations who may not know of him will think when they pass over that bridge that he must have been an important man. The naming of the bridge in his honour was a tribute not just to Cedric but also to the South Sea Islander community in Queensland, of which Cedric was such a proud member.

The way that Cedric's grandparents were brought to Mackay is still a source of shame for our community, but the wonderful tapestry of social, cultural and spiritual life that is Queensland today owes much to the rich tradition of the South Sea Islander people. Cedric typified that spirit. Cedric was a true pioneer. He was one of the first Australia-born South Sea Islanders to own freehold land in Queensland. Cedric was pivotal in raising the historical significance of the old mission hall, resulting in the preservation of the hall. During the dreadful period of our history that was the White Australia Policy, the old mission hall was an important meeting point for members of the South Sea Islander community who were facing repatriation.

Cedric was a dedicated trade unionist and a proud Labor voter all his life and worked tirelessly as an advocate for Mackay's South Sea Islander community. Cedric singled out his involvement in politics, through his life membership of the Australian Workers Union and his association with the Labor Party, as being one of his proudest life achievements other than his family when he celebrated his 100th birthday last year. As the region's longest living resident, Cedric's contribution to Mackay is unmatched and I know he will be sorely missed by many in the Mackay community. My thoughts and prayers go out to Cedric's family and friends, in particular his daughter, Christine, who has dedicated her life to caring for her parents.