




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

ADJOURNMENT

First Contact Memorial Project

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (12.40 am): It is little known that the first European contact with Australia was in 1606 when the *Duyfken*, or Little Dove, of the Dutch East India Company sailed down the west coast of Cape York under the control of Captain Willem Janszoon in search of a land where there was reputed to be an abundance of gold. Contact was made with the Tjungundji people in Port Musgrave. The ship's log was ultimately lost and there is no direct record of events, although the charts were used in a subsequent voyage as soon after as 1623 when the ship's log of that voyage described—

In the afternoon we sailed past a large river (which the men of the *Duyfken* went up with a boat in 1606, and where one of them was killed by arrows of the blacks). To this river, which is in 11 degrees 48" latitude, I have given the name of Revier de Carpentaria on the new chart.

Had the Dutch been colonists not traders Australia may well have had a completely different mantle today. The First Contact Memorial Project was established in 2006 and Mapoon was selected as the most favourable site following lengthy discussion with the Netherlands embassy, the Queensland government and the Mapoon community. With the support of Rio Tinto Alcan, historian Geoff Wharton and other sponsors, a memorial has been erected on the site at Cullen Point where the first contact with Indigenous people was made in 1606. The memorial comprises a replica of the vessel the *Duyfken* cut from aluminium and erected on a wall to give the effect of a silhouette of the vessel against the water and skyline of Port Musgrave. On the sail a little dove is depicted, which represents the *Duyfken*, and the hero bird of the Yupungathi people, a Torresian Imperial pigeon, which is, incidentally, related to the dove. On the wall are 12 bronze plaques containing cultural and historical information about the Mapoon people, their country and the first contact history. All in all, it is a very impressive sight.

It was my pleasure to represent the Premier on the 27 May 2013 at the official opening of the First Contact Memorial. The official party comprised Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AC, the Governor of Queensland; the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mrs Anniemeike Ruigwrok; the leader of the Netherlands senate, Fred De Graaf; and Mayor Peter Guiverra along with traditional owners and many local people. The ceremony was very moving with some heartfelt speeches and traditional dancing. Whatever differences existed over 400 years ago in 1606 have now well and truly been put to rest between the people of the Netherlands nation and the people of Mapoon in an act of generosity and reconciliation.