



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2014

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Burnett Electorate, Sir Anthony's Rest**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.15 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to share a very important Queensland Heritage Act declaration in the electorate of Burnett. I have been working with the local landowners and South Sea Islander community on the ongoing preservation of an icon called Sir Anthony's Rest. A dry-stone platform, Sir Anthony's Rest was constructed during the visit of the Governor of Queensland, Sir Anthony Musgrave, to Bundaberg in 1888. Using South Sea Islander labour, a lookout was constructed for the Governor and his party facing east, with a view over the cane fields of Wongarra. The area was part of the highest geographical point in the area, known locally as 'The Hummock'.

South Sea Islanders had been working on sugar plantations in the Bundaberg district from the mid-1870s. It was during this time that the Governor of Queensland, Sir Anthony Musgrave, undertook a northern tour and visited a number of towns, including Bundy. Musgrave was considered to be a very popular Governor of the day, undertaking tours to northern ports and inland in 1883, 1884, 1887 and 1888.

Anthony Musgrave was born in the West Indies in 1828 and was educated in the West Indies. He became the Governor of South Australia in 1873 and later the Governor of Jamaica. In 1883, he became Governor of Queensland. It was an auspicious day when Musgrave opened the Queensland parliament on 8 November 1883. Musgrave was the sixth Governor of Queensland and held the position from 1883 to 1888. He was big on making himself as visible and approachable to as many people as possible, which were key factors in obtaining and maintaining his popularity as the Governor in Queensland.

From the earliest days of colonial Queensland, the Governor's tours were more than familiarisation tours of the areas. The tours were both practical and ceremonial and received great coverage from all concerned. Musgrave and his vice-regal party arrived in Bundaberg on the steamer *Lucinda*. On their first day, the party travelled to Millaquin plantation and later drove around the town. They probably used a horse and dray. Following a procession in Bundaberg, they headed out to Mon Repos and to 'The Hummock' and the dry-stone platform called Sir Anthony's Rest.

The construction of Sir Anthony's Rest is similar to the construction of a number of dry-rubble boundary walls which were constructed in the area using South Sea Islander labour. These walls were constructed in layers, with larger stones placed around the outside and smaller stones used for the infill. This seems to have been a common construction method in my part of the world. We welcome any further heritage listing of these very important icons for us and, of course, for the South Sea Islander community.

Usually the crowds wishing to gain a view of the vice-regal party were very large. That is why Sir Anthony's Rest was built where it was, and it is still visible from Bargara Road. We welcome the continuation of working with the Queensland Heritage Act to maintain this very important part of history for Queensland.