




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hinkler Memorial

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.58 pm): In the time allotted to me I want to share with the House a unique project that is associated with the Anzac Centenary commemorations, which was successfully completed in Italy on 2 August and witnessed by some 200 people. The 8.4-kilometre mountain trekking track in Tuscany, Italy is now called the Hinkler Ring. It covers the region where Bert Hinkler lost his life on 7 January 1933 in his de Havilland Puss Moth while en route from the UK to Australia in an attempt to create another world-record-breaking flight.

On 7 January 2015, a ceremony was held in my electorate of Burnett on Mon Repos Beach to witness the removal of a 1.4-tonne basalt boulder, which is now the main feature of the Hinkler memorial monument. Mon Repos Beach is where Bert first flew in his homemade glider in 1912.

A time capsule was embedded into the monument's base to be opened in 100 years. The then prime minister, Tony Abbott, wrote a message on behalf of our nation, as did Premier Palaszczuk on behalf of Queensland. The Hinkler Hall of Aviation donated a slate tile and some original nails from Bert's Southampton home to be placed inside the time capsule along with some treated sand from Mon Repos beach and the Bundaberg Regional Council provided some written material.

The Australian parliament presented a special gift for permanent display at the Hinkler Ring associated Chalet Da Giocondo. The Queensland Anzac Centenary Commemoration Unit supplied the major bronze plaque recounting Bert's WWI service. The dedication of the memorial monument was performed by Anglican Father Cliff Greaves, whose ministry was previously in Bundaberg. Three ranking officers from RAF 28 Squadron attended from England. They laid a wreath of poppies. RAF 28 Squadron commissioned a carved basalt stone replica of its crest in honour of Bert's Italian service with its motto, 'Whatsoever you may do, do.' A Royal Navy commander attended on behalf of the British Embassy in Rome. Two RAAF officers from the Roulettes attended from Melbourne and played pipes and bugle. An RAAF group captain from our High Commission in London attended, as did our London Agent-General acting on behalf of the Queensland government.

I mention also Ballandean Estate Wines of Stanthorpe, which gifted wines for the occasion, the Royal Queensland Aero Club, the Bargara Men's Shed in my electorate whose members made a beautiful wooden lectern to hold the visitors' book, Bundaberg company Jabiru, which gifted a wooden propeller to be incorporated in its design and my federal colleague, Mr Keith Pitt MP, the member for Hinkler, who shared the cost of several specially designed visitors books with me. The Australian Ambassador to Italy, His Excellency the Hon. Mike Rann, officiated at the unveiling ceremony.

Tabled paper: The Hinkler Ring Memorial Monument unveiling ceremony on Mount Pratomagno—order of proceedings and related documents [[1125](#)].

I commend the Australian organiser of this project, Mr Kevin Lindeberg, as the project's driving force. The former federal member for Hinkler, Mr Paul Neville, and its new member, Mr Keith Pitt, aided in the project, as did Mr Lex Rowland, Bundaberg's mayor, the member for Bundaberg and I. For historical purposes, I seek leave to table some photos at a later date.