



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Hinkler, Mr B

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to inform the House about an upcoming event in Tuscany, Italy to commemorate the life and achievements of one of the world's greatest pioneer aviators, Squadron Leader Bert Hinkler—the boy from the Bundaberg region. The event begins on 22 April 2023 and includes our national day of remembrance, Anzac Day, on 25 April. The event marks the discovery of Bert Hinkler's body on 27 April 1933 after he had been missing for 111 days.

Mon Repos Beach in my electorate is where Bert first flew his home-made glider back in 1911, 112 years ago. On 7 January 2012, an imposing 1.4-tonne basalt boulder was gifted by the Queensland government to travel 16,000 kilometres to Mount Pratomagno near Arezzo and Florence. This boulder became the centrepiece of a new Hinkler Memorial Monument, unveiled on 2 August 2015, on the precise spot where Bert unfortunately lost his life on 7 January 1933 after an unsuccessful emergency landing. It could be said that this boulder witnessed Bert's first glider flights in 1911 and now stands on the site of his death as a place of pilgrimage. Its setting is solemn, moving and serene.

Bert was buried in Florence with full military honours on 1 May 1933. The monument's unveiling became a significant part of the 2014-18 Centenary of Anzac commemorations. Bert fought with RAF Squadron 28 in northern Italy in World War I to regain lost Italian soil following the famous Battle of Caporetto. The organiser behind the memorial is Mr Kevin Lindeberg. This proud Queenslander remains dedicated to advancing what Bert stood for and achieved. Mr Lindeberg will be involved in the upcoming event on 22 April via Skype, along with local Italian dignitaries. Our Australian Ambassador in Rome, Her Excellency Margaret Twomey, has directed her attache, an RAAF flight lieutenant, to attend in uniform to represent her and our nation.

This unique Hinkler Memorial Monument on the slopes of a Tuscan mountain continues to grow in importance in keeping our great nations relevant and together in peace, friendship and exchange. I join with many in calling on the Queensland and Australian governments to fund a Hinkler Memorial Monument utility trust for the upkeep of the Hinkler Memorial Monument to preserve the integrity of this important reminder of our pioneering adventurer and aviator—the boy from Bundaberg.

The reason for the call for the funding of the trust is that at this location there are quite extreme weather conditions and we see debris, trees, a lot of snow and a lot of activity from tourists as well. There is no funding to maintain the memorial. In time, we hope that some sort of funding could be made available so that this important memorial is maintained in perpetuity. All the best, Bert Hinkler.