



Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ADJOURNMENT

Greenmount Homestead

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.19 pm): I rise tonight to talk about Greenmount Homestead in Walkerston—one of the most significant parcels of land in Central Queensland. The homestead itself was built in 1915 by Albert and Vida Cook and has been largely unchanged since 1920. After its construction, the property became the base of one of Queensland's first Aberdeen Angus studs. While the Aberdeen Angus breed had been introduced into Australia in the 1840s, there were fewer than 1,000 head in Queensland when Albert began specialising in the breed. Following his passing in 1948 his son Thomas expanded the stud and in the 1950s introduced Brahmans and Brahman crossbreeds, further shaping our region's cattle industry.

The Greenmount story reaches back even further. The original land was first claimed in 1860 when a group of pioneers from Uralla in New South Wales ventured north in search of new country. This was the first expedition of its kind into the Mackay region, and Greenmount was among the first parcels staked by none other than John Mackay.

Today, Greenmount Homestead is heritage listed because of its rare and intact collection of buildings, outbuildings, gardens, furniture and personal effects, all of which together preserve a way of life no longer common. In 1983, Tom Cook gifted the property to the City of Mackay, and it has since been lovingly maintained with the support of volunteers and museum staff who are dedicated to sharing our history.

This year, 2025, also marks the 25th anniversary of the Queensland government's formal recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct cultural group. This milestone reminds us of the vital contribution South Sea Islanders have made in shaping the cultural, social and agricultural story of the Mackay region. It is fitting then to also pay tribute to the late Glory Arrow, a proud descendent of our South Sea Islander community. Gloria gave more than 60 years of service to Greenmount Homestead. In recognition of her extraordinary contribution, she received the Pride of the Region Award. Her generosity, dedication and passion for preserving our history were remarkable. Few people were more deserving. Gloria passed away peacefully on 9 May 2021, but her legacy endures at Greenmount.

The history of places like Greenmount matters to regional Queensland. It reminds us of where we have come from, the challenges and the contributions of families and communities who built our regions. Well done to Greenmount.