



**Adjournment Speech by
GLEN ELEMES**

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard, Thursday 19 April, 2007

Mill Point Cemetery Restoration Project

Mr ELMES (Noosa--Lib) (9.39 pm): In this year of celebration of Queensland's 150th birthday, it is with great pleasure that I am able to report on the positive direction of an historically significant project which illustrates the benefits of collaboration. I refer to the Mill Point cemetery restoration project. Mill Point is located in the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park, on the shores of Lake Cootharaba, and is the site of one of the earliest timber settlements in Queensland, operating as a flourishing community between 1869 and 1892. Due to the significant historical, social and scientific values of the site, Mill Point was listed on the Queensland heritage register in 2004.

It was also at this time when discussions began between the Noosa Shire Council and various government departments, regarding concerns for the long-term future of this historical site. As a result of these discussions, archaeological fieldwork began following a survey by a team of staff from the University of Queensland, the EPA and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Subsequently, major findings were uncovered at the site, which have been featured in both local and national media over the past several years. Another major outcome from the archaeological findings was the discovery of the remains of the town cemetery, in which 43 graves were identified. This has led to a memorial restoration initiative, undertaken by the Cooroora Historical Society and Noosa Museum. They have put in an enormous amount of effort and hard work into the project which involves returning original grave markers into the cemetery, developing and maintaining an interpretive facility and managing the surrounding vegetation.

It is thanks to the ongoing support and collaborative partnerships of the allied agencies and government departments that this project is so well on track. I would also like to point out that Mill Point is not only of such substantial interest to the archaeological community of Queensland but also generates much interest and activity amongst the local population. It is frequently used for educational purposes by schools, it features prominently in the work of local artists and is incorporated into various activities of the Noosa heritage community. Its location in one of Queensland's most significant national parks provides an extra dimension to the national park visitor experience.

In closing, I would like to mention the strong support of the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism for the Noosa Museum's recent funding submission. She and her staff have been extremely helpful. This project will provide a considerable milestone for our state and gives us another excellent reason to celebrate our historical heritage.
