



# Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

## Media Statement

22 May 2009

### Descendants of first Parliamentarians invited to help mark 150<sup>th</sup> year

The Queensland Parliament is calling on descendants of its first parliamentarians, who met in 1860, to come forward to help celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

Speaker John Mickel has put out the call as the Queensland Parliament begins the countdown to its 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations next May.

Queensland is celebrating 150 years of Statehood this year. While Queensland separated from the colony of New South Wales in 1859, its first Parliament did not meet until the following year.

Queensland's first Parliament was officially opened by Governor George Bowen on 22 May 1860. The Parliament's original location was in the Old Convict Barracks building in Brisbane's Queen Street.

Speaker John Mickel said relatives of first Members were invited to contact the Parliament and register their interest in attending events being planned to mark next year's historic occasion.

"Next year will be very significant in the Parliament's history and we would like to ensure that descendants of those first Members are involved in our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations," Mr Mickel said.

A number of descendants of former Members have begun contacting the Parliament ahead of its celebrations in 2010.

"These family members have provided very important documents, photos and other information which we are including in our historical collections," Mr Mickel said.

"We welcome hearing from descendants of all former Members of the Queensland Parliament. However, we are particularly encouraging the involvement of descendants of Queensland's first Parliamentarians.

"Also, as part of next year's celebrations, the Parliament hopes to reflect on the people and the stories that have shaped our Parliament's rich history, including stories which highlight both the serious and lighter sides of the House.

"It would be most helpful if descendants of Members could provide the Queensland Parliament with more information on their relatives, so it can become part of the significant story that is to be told."

A list of members who were elected as part of the Parliament's first sitting in May 1860 can be found on the Parliament's website – <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/1860>

#### Contact details for descendants

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