



Message from the Premier of Queensland

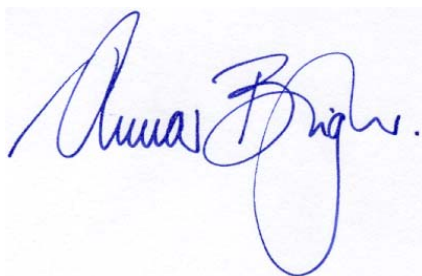
The story of Burke and Wills is almost as old as Queensland itself. This State, whose ancient landscape played such a dire part in outcome of the expedition, turned 150 in 2009.

Of course, this is an anniversary significant to us all. A tale that encapsulates the vast, formidable landscape of our country, the hopeful courage of its early explorers and the uneasy relationship between colonial settlers and the land's Indigenous custodians, the story of Burke and Wills has fired many an Australian imagination.

The Queensland Government is proud to support the Royal Victorian Society in commemorating the Burke and Wills Expedition anniversary in 2010.

Not only will commemorative events raise awareness of this important moment in our country's history but scientific research undertaken by the RVS will aim to develop more sustainable practices for land and water use along Burke and Will's expedition route. These outcomes may well prove vital in ensuring the future of this unique part of our country.

I can't think of a more appropriate legacy for two such bold-hearted adventurers.



**ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**