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## **\$50 Million Botany Bay Cook Memorial Grant is for Fake History**

Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott is appalled at the federal government's decision to grant almost \$50 million for the construction of a James Cook memorial theme park on the shores of Botany Bay.

Mayor Scott describes the claim, that Cook interfaced with Botany Bay indigenous people in 1770 as one "based on an historic falsity".

Katter's Australian Party Leichhardt candidate Daniel McCarthy is also aware of this glaring example of fake history. "The Botany Bay memorial theme park, that supposedly commemorates friendly, productive liaison between Cook and the local folks is a political fabrication. Cook never met an Aboriginal person until he arrived in what is now Cooktown"

Mr. McCarthy, a lifelong seafarer himself and former President of the Cairns Game Fishing Association, notes that no other location in Australia can match Cooktown's association with 'the Great Navigator'. "As any serious historian can attest, there was no real interaction between Cook or any member of his crew with local aboriginal people at Botany Bay, none whatsoever" says Mr McCarthy.

Mayor Scott points-out to the Reconciliation Rocks on the outskirts of Cooktown, for it was on this very site that Cook, made friends with local indigenous tribesmen, enabling Cook and his crew to spend 48 idyllic days in the area in harmony with the local folks, while ships carpenters repaired the Endeavour's damaged hull.

"This was the first friendly liaison between whitefella explorers and our first Australians. No such mutual understanding was formed at Botany Bay, or any landfalls the Endeavour's crew made on the Australian east coast", explains Mr. McCarthy.

McCarthy is outraged at the entire concept of the Botany Bay federal \$50 million grant, which just happens to be in the electorate of federal treasurer Scott Morrison. "The disgraceful business of pork-barrelling is made much worse by outright distortion of historical fact".

'Obviously, at least some of the Cook Memorial grant money belongs in Cooktown, as Mayor Scott points out. "There are direct descendants of our first Australians, the very people who met and assisted Cook and members of his crew, living in Cooktown." explains the Mayor.

McCarthy concludes: "it is hugely regrettable that the incumbent federal MP for Leichhardt, whose electorate has Cooktown as the historical and geographical heart, has failed to advance the obvious case for the town, to receive a rightful share of the Cook memorial grant fund".

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