




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Anzac Day

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.24 pm): 25 April is a special date on our nation's calendar. It is a day we pause to remember all those who have served and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may be free. They served under a flag that represents our past and our future—that represents us. As we all know, this year's Anzac Day held special significance as it marked the centenary of Australian, New Zealand, British and French troops storming the shores of Gallipoli Peninsula under a hail of machine gun fire and artillery shells. The Gallipoli campaign is often referred to as the birth of our nation's consciousness—truly a day Australia stood strong and as an equal in the eyes of the world.

Those brave men and women who stood proudly now have their names etched in stone on the memorials dotted in and around the electorate—people like Private FN Wilson, Lance Corporal R Howard and Private C Connor, to name a few. While most of us will never be touched by the horrors of war or experience the hell these soldiers endured, their sacrifice shall never be forgotten, for now and for future generations to come. This is clearly demonstrated at the Anzac Day services in the electorate, with record crowds at our services, especially our youth.

These events take an enormous amount of organising and preparation. I wish to thank all those who worked hard to get these events together and have them run smoothly. The Beenleigh RSL should be congratulated for their exceptional efforts for this year's service—president David Draper, master of ceremonies Dick Barnes, QPS Sergeant Mario Russo and the other Beenleigh RSL members, to name a few.

Equally, I wish to thank the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, under the leadership of Chris Straw and their master of ceremonies Tony Lines, for an outstanding service at the Upper Coomera cenotaph. The Upper Coomera service gives the opportunity for school students to march with those who have served. In bright school uniforms, young students and older students sat silently and listened intently to the words spoken. Our ex-service men and women watched on in the knowledge that their legacy and service will never be forgotten. As we drive past our cenotaphs we should take a moment to remember all those names etched in stone. They are those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a land that is envied by all.