



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 27 April 1999

ANZAC DAY

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): I wish to inform the House of the honour with which schoolchildren in the Mount Ommaney electorate regard the returned servicemen and women of our country. On Friday morning, 23 April, I attended three school ceremonies to commemorate Anzac Day. At two of the primary schools, Middle Park State School and Corinda State School, the official guest speakers were officers of the Royal Australian Air Force. Both men talked about the importance of Anzac Day, their experiences in the armed forces and the freedom that we share today because of the courage of our returned servicemen and women. At each of the ceremonies, the bugle played the last post and at Corinda State High School, the band and choir performed a series of songs appropriate to Anzac Day.

It is difficult for our young people to know just how much these men and women suffered, how hard they fought and the deep losses that their families felt. However, on Friday I was satisfied that these children felt the pride that their families knew when they honoured their memory on that special day. They paid their respect through their excellent behaviour, their attentiveness and immaculate dress standards for the occasion.

This year, there was renewed pride and increased participation in Anzac Day across the country. At the 4 a.m. dawn service that I attended in my home town of Bundaberg, people gathered shoulder to shoulder to pay homage to the brave. Again, children featured among the participants. These included the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides, the cadets, the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those honoured. People cried tears of joy that we do not have to endure what they had to endure; of sadness, for the Anzacs are becoming too few; of pride for our country that such patriotism will forever be as strong; and for peace, that it may one day be universal. I look forward to the building of the war memorial in our Centenary suburbs, hopefully before next Anzac Day.
