



Speech by

**Mr M. ROWELL**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

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Hansard 10 November 1999

#### **LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr ROWELL** (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (10.50 p.m.): In joining the debate on the Liquor Amendment Bill, I have to say that Australia, in comparison with most other countries in the world, has a very short history. The tradition of the Anzacs commenced in World War 1. A lot of young men went to that war thinking that it was going to be an experience. They really did not know what they were facing. Australians joined with forces from a number of other nations and went to fight on foreign soil. We have done this on many occasions. We joined with other forces to defend principles that are so important to our Australian way of life.

A lot of very young Australians who were involved in the First World War found that the period from 1914 to 1918 was very tough. That was really the start of the Anzac tradition. It is a tradition that has lived long. It is a tradition that is being upheld by the celebration of Anzac Day throughout the country. I believe it is a tradition that members on both sides of this House support.

It appears that we have a minor disagreement regarding the way in which we observe Anzac Day. The celebration of Anzac Day is a mark of respect for those Australians who defended our country. Unfortunately, some of them did not return. If there is any prospect that someone will disrupt our celebration of Anzac Day, members on this side of the House want to be in a position where we can do something about it. We are asking people to make a small sacrifice by not being able to drink on licensed premises after midnight on Anzac Day eve. We want to ensure that Anzac Day services are not interrupted.

We have Anzac Day services right throughout my electorate. Because of the nature of the electorate, it is difficult to attend all the Anzac Day services that are held.

Australians have been represented in a number of theatres of war. Fortunately, none of those wars have been fought on our soil. This is something which is of great importance to us. Having said that, Australians have given their lives in order to ensure that we did not have to defend our own country.

In the Second World War Australians were involved in the European campaign and in the Middle East. A lot of people will remember what happened at Tripoli. I believe we are all aware of the sacrifices that our troops made in those areas. I believe we all have relatives or friends who were involved in the Second World War. I was quite young at the time, but I remember when the small submarines entered Sydney Harbour. A net had been placed across the harbour, but the submarines found their way through the net. I think that was one of the closest threats we have had to Australia's soil. Of course, we also had the Japanese bombing of Darwin.

The Battle of the Coral Sea was a matter of great concern to Australians. It occurred only 700 miles from the eastern shores of Australia. The people of Cardwell have recognised the Battle of the Coral Sea by developing a park which contains a cenotaph. We have the Battle of the Coral Sea march in Cardwell in May each year. This parade remembers the Australians who lost their lives in the Battle of the Coral Sea, which was a particularly significant event for Australia. It was the turning point of the Second World War.

Australia has been involved in other theatres of war, namely Korea and Vietnam. One honourable member on the other side of the Chamber has spoken of the Vietnam campaign. I can understand his feelings with regard to this legislation. Whilst he may not necessarily be in agreement with it, I think he would agree that the principle of what we are doing is very important.

We now have Australia's involvement in East Timor. It is instability around the world that causes these sorts of problems. From time to time, Australians have to bite the bullet and support other countries in their time of need. We have to show that we are ready, willing and able.

Australia has always had very strong ties with Great Britain. Those ties have, to a certain extent, dissipated. Australia relies very heavily on the United States of America. Australia has an alliance with New Zealand. It was that alliance which was the genesis of the Anzacs.

There is tremendous recognition of Anzac Day in my electorate. I have to say that more and more young people are attending Anzac Day marches—

**Mr Fouras:** What does that have to do with the Bill?

**Mr ROWELL:** That is an extremely inane comment. If the member for Ashgrove would like to go back to his own seat—

**Mr Fouras** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Clark): Order! The member for Ashgrove shall not interject from other than his correct seat.

**Mr ROWELL:** Put him back in his cage. It is extremely important that we have the recognition of the young people who come out very early in the morning. We do not want to see disruption of marches by late revellers who have been on the booze until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. These people are going out there—

**Mr Fouras:** Nobody wants that.

**Mr ROWELL:** We are trying to prevent it; does the member not understand? All one needs to do is put two and two together and hope that somebody such as the member for Ashgrove can understand our position. It is quite evident that he does not understand.

**Ms Struthers:** You would have to have a curfew to achieve what you want to achieve.

**Mr ROWELL:** No, we are simply saying to stop the drink at 12 o'clock. I have not heard the member for Archerfield interject before. This is something new for her. I find it hard to believe because I believe she is a very pragmatic person, one who has empathy for people who are disadvantaged.

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