



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

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ANZAC DAY

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—IND) (7.06 p.m.): Following the debate that we had tonight on Anzac Day, it is timely that I mention a young man in my electorate named Jason Morrison who won the Simpson Prize at that fine educational facility, the Malanda State High School. Mr Morrison won the prize for writing an essay. The prize involves a trip to Anzac Cove in April this year to participate in the Anzac Day celebrations at Gallipoli. The prize also involved a trip to Canberra on 22-23 February to allow Mr Morrison to take part in a two-day program where he attended Anzac Day related functions.

I believe it is important that we remember the things we hold sacred. One of those things is Anzac Day. It is a very important day to me. In my house it is celebrated even more than Christmas. My family has a long and distinguished history of service to the Crown and to this country as soldiers.

Tonight in this Parliament the member for Gladstone moved a motion to ensure that Anzac Day is kept sacred. This young man from the Tablelands has carried forward the principles of that debate in his essay. We are asked to keep one day sacred in this country. The member for Gladstone quite rightly asked that licensed premises close for four hours on the morning of Anzac Day. I am sure that most nightclub owners, hoteliers and licensed premises owners on the Tablelands would agree that four hours is not too much to ask. I will be personally asking local licensees on the Tablelands, as a sign of respect, to close their premises at midnight on the evening before Anzac Day. This action would be a sign of respect for the soldiers and for some of the cultures and traditions that we have in this country. I urge all members to do the same in their electorates. Hopefully we can get some voluntary action on this matter since the Government saw, in its wisdom, not to do it by legislation.
