



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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ANZAC DAY

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.32 pm): Even though it was a few weeks ago now, I want to reminisce about some Anzac Day ceremonies. In the days leading up to Anzac Day I went to two ceremonies at St Kevin's Catholic School at Benowa for the official blessing of its Anzac memorial and commemorative garden organised by the acting APRE teacher Christine Harding. It was a very nice ceremony at which Father Dan Ryan, the local parish priest from Clear Island Waters, spoke. It was a great ceremony with the kids. I also went to Ashmore State School's moving ceremony with Vietnam veterans who normally arrive on their Harley Davidsons. There was an exceptional playing of *The Last Post* and *Reveille* by student David Futo. It was a very emotional event organised by music teacher Jenny Williams. Vietnam veteran Chris Sweeney ensured that the audience gained a further connection with the Anzac spirit and legend. There were individual performances by choir members. It certainly received high praise from the guests, as did the behaviour and discipline of the students in the audience.

Thanks and appreciation to Amanda Fry as master of ceremonies, Paula Dover, who is the P&C President, Annette Gray, who organised the morning tea, Rhonda Gilmore, Pam Dagg, Russ Brookman, Evan Howard, Hugh Roberts, Vicki Marchmont, Lyndal Goodman, Doug Thomas, Sandy Browne and Carmel Ryan, who is the principal at Ashmore State School. They did things like *I Vow to Thee My Country*, a speech about 'Weary' Dunlop, *Courage of a Mate*, Australia in the Vietnam War and an explanation of the song *I Was Only 19*, as well as a performance of *I Was Only 19*. As I say, it was a very nice ceremony and congratulations to Ashmore State School as well as St Kevin's.

Then on Anzac Day I also attended two ceremonies. There was a lot of publicity about the one at Elephant Rock, but there were two great ceremonies—the dawn service on the beach at Surfers Paradise organised by President Arch McDonald and parade assistants Ted Taylor and Barry Elliott, who is the chief marshal. Other parade assistants were Ralph Thompson, Alan Whelan, Norm Parry, David Stoneley, Arnie Winsen and Vince Rickards and flag ordinary Geoffrey Dew. There was also a noon civic service, and that was also very moving with all the traditions that go with Anzac Day.

I wanted to mention Reverend Geoff Smith, who is the rector of the Anglican parish. He certainly had some very moving words, and I want to quote some of the words he said about the Australians who served. He said—

... there are a number of Australian character traits that seem to stand out in both the men and women who have served. One of those character traits is the ability to find a solution. When a problem came up, the Australians seem to have found ways to get around it.

He continued—

It seems to me that very often the focus was not on the problem but on the solution. Australians are 'can do' people and Australian service personnel have historically displayed that attitude often in very difficult circumstances.

He said—

It seems to me though that perhaps we are losing some of that 'can do' focus in our community.

He continued—

Increasingly we are tending to hand our responsibility to others. Expecting others to solve the problem for us, whether it is crime, water, health care, the education of our children, the character of our community.

It was a very good speech and I commend it to the House.