



Speech by

**Vicky Darling**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

Hansard Tuesday, 29 April 2008

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## ANZAC DAY

**Ms DARLING** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.33 pm): Last week Australians and New Zealanders around the world recognised Anzac Day in a variety of ways but all with solemn, respectful services that acknowledged the great sacrifice of service men and women. Sandgate RSL subbranch organised two special commemorative services and marches that attracted record crowds to Sandgate. Hundreds of people lined the streets to watch both the dawn service and march and the later mid-morning march and service.

Pipe bands, police, school students, youth groups and armed services personnel joined the veterans and their families and friends in this year's march. I was honoured to march with Sandgate police, lay a wreath at the memorial service and listen to talented local musician Claye Middleton as he sang the song *The Anzac*. It was a very moving service and I congratulate Russell Backen, Norm Murdoch and the other organisers from Sandgate RSL subbranch for a special day.

In the afternoon of Anzac Day I joined the sunset service at the waterfront at Eventide, Brighton, organised by the RAAF Association (Queensland), Sandgate branch. Mr Michael Bryce AM AE gave another moving tribute to those who served to keep our country safe and free. Mr Bryce has been the RAAF Association patron for several years and will be missed by the Queensland personnel. I would like to congratulate Malcolm Bool and Roy Lincoln and the RAAF personnel who contributed to the moving sunset service.

Many members may not be aware that the Eventide site at Brighton was a RAAF station established in December 1940 and disbanded in November 1944. A monument was erected in December 1998 and dedicated in January 1999 to all who had served at or passed through RAAF station Sandgate during World War II. It actually stands at the site of the old Guard House, situated at the junction of 19th Avenue and Flinders Parade, Brighton, in the grounds of the now Eventide Nursing Home.

The RAAF Association (Queensland), Sandgate branch holds the sunset service at the memorial on Anzac Day each year and is assisted by cadets from 212 AAFC, based at nearby Redcliffe. This year's Anzac services were particularly moving, perhaps because we remember the sacrifice of veterans who served in so many conflicts over the last century and we remember those new veterans just returned from their first service offshore. Sadly, we also remember those who lost their lives on recent service in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we remember the thousands of innocent men, women and children who die unnecessarily in conflicts around the world. We remember all who die and we must continue to remember until we see peace across the globe. Lest we forget.