



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 20 May 2009

MORAYFIELD ELECTORATE, ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (9.12 pm): Anzac Day means different things to different people. Officially, Anzac Day is a national day of commemoration for the service of Australians in past and current conflicts throughout the world. Both my grandfathers served in the military during the Second World War. Both were conscripts, but both answered their nation's call to serve. They sought no accolades for their service and very rarely spoke of their experiences. On the rare occasion that they spoke of their experiences, they said that war was a tragedy. They said that war was not about winners or losers, victory or defeat; war is about the total failure of the human condition to make peace work. So on Anzac Day, we commemorate the brave and dedicated individuals who served and continue to serve our nation but also remind ourselves of the destruction and loss caused by war.

This year, I was honoured to attend a number of local Anzac Day ceremonies in the Morayfield electorate. I congratulate Principal Ross Mackay, teachers, staff and students of the Narangba Valley State High School on a respectful commemoration service. In particular, I acknowledge the role of the school captains, the Narangba Valley Army cadets and the Narangba Valley State High School string quartet on their involvement with the service. I also acknowledge the contribution made by Mr Des Kearton from the Caboolture-Morayfield sub-branch of the RSL.

I also attended the Jinibara State School Anzac Day service. Again, I acknowledge the respect and interest shown by students during the service. I congratulate the principal, Mr Ray Bloxham, the senior band, conducted by Mrs Wilkinson, and the Jinibara senior choir, conducted by Mrs Foat, on their respective contributions to the commemoration service. I particularly acknowledge the magnificent skill displayed by the bugler on her playing of the last post.

I attended the mateship day activities held at the Burpengary Meadows State School. The principal, Mr Peter Black, and the teachers and staff of the school are to be commended on this tremendous initiative, which honours Anzac Day through activities that teach teamwork, leadership, trust and discipline.

Finally, I attended both the dawn service and the main service at Caboolture on Anzac Day—

Mr Watt interjected.

Mr RYAN: I was busy—a hardworking local member. It was reported that 1,700 people attended the dawn service and 1,500 participated in the main service. I acknowledge the contribution made by the sub-branch president, Mr Glenn Willmann, and other members of the sub-branch including Mr Peter Lawlor and Mr Des Kearton. I also acknowledge Mr Geoff Murray for his kind invitation to enjoy a flavoured milk with other attendees of the dawn service.