




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Anzac Day

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.48 pm): As the member for Nanango, I am often given the honour of officiating at major ceremonies and events. However, no higher honour has ever been given to me in my three years so far in this role than being chosen to address the Anzac Day dawn service in Nanango. The men and women of the Nanango Remembrance Committee have worked tirelessly for the past 12 months to ensure that their day went without a hitch—and it did.

I would like to mention several people from the Nanango RSL sub-branch, including president Mr Bert Stevens, president of the remembrance committee Mr Peter Gurney, secretary Allan Whelan and past secretary Mr Daryl Okely, aka 'Grumpy', who wants to pass on his sincere thanks to the member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, for his assistance to the remembrance committee. The pride I have in this group of people is insurmountable. They are everyday mums and dads, many of whom have fought for us and returned and are still battling the demons that penetrate their dreams. Their work for the Anzac centenary, and for many years before that, helps the next generation understand the past in the hope that history does not repeat itself.

Later on Anzac morning I was standing with World War II veteran bomber commander Paul Tun, once again at the magnificent Yarraman Cemetery, where I was reminded how fortunate my life is. I was called upon to read the list of returned soldiers buried in that place. I could see the sheer determination on Mr Tun's face. I felt the pressure of Mr Tun's 93-year-old eyes upon me as behind them he remembered all of those who now lay at peace—old mates who I am sure relayed many yarns of days at war and the loss of mates who did not return.

Yarraman cemetery stands atop a ridge on the road to Kooralgin. It overlooks sorghum paddocks and, in the spectacular morning light, I can honestly say that there was no other place in the world I would rather have been than where I was, standing with the servicemen from World War II and our Vietnam veterans. They helped me to remember those who fought gallantly to enable us, 100 years later, to live in a country that is relatively peaceful, free from dictators and oppression. At the gunfire breakfast in Yarraman, it was wonderful to talk with all of the locals.

I went on to the Kingaroy service. I have to congratulate the RSL, Don Davey, Warren Cockburn and Keith Campbell for leading such a wonderful service and unveiling the magnificent statue. I congratulate Matt Philips, Susan Dowsett Reiger and Eri Carey for all of the musical contributions as well. I congratulate all of the schools I attended for their services—Esk State School, Toogoolawah State School and Crow's Nest State School—and all of their respective leaders for the magnificent work that they do to keep this special day alive.