



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### **Anzac Day; Samford Avenue of Honour**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (9.57 pm): I wish to contribute to this adjournment debate by speaking about Anzac Day and the Samford Avenue of Honour centenary commemorative celebrations. On 25 April this year crowd estimates were put at 6,000 to 8,000 people. Starting at 6 am, people arrived from far and wide to gather at the soccer grounds for the march up to the cenotaph. The crowd was so large that anyone standing on the outer edges had no way of seeing much of the proceedings. The numbers showed that community spirit is alive and well in Samford and surrounds.

The master of ceremonies Mark Orreal, Samford RSL Sub-Branch and Avenue of Honour committee member, gave the welcoming speech and introduction. It was also special to have Afghanistan servicemen present, complete with service dogs. Jamie Whitehead, President of the Samford RSL Sub-Branch and also Avenue of Honour committee member, presented the opening address. The Catafalque Party Mounts 6RAR presided over the memorial service. The Anzac spirit has lived on through subsequent wars and peacekeeping missions and continues to this day in the more recent and enduring conflicts that our brave men and women find themselves volunteering for to protect our way of life.

The Samford Avenue of Honour is now complete and its significance will remind us of the Anzac spirit for posterity. The Avenue of Honour has only been made possible through tremendous community support. I extend my congratulations to Mark Orreal, Bill Gibson and Jamie Whitehead from the Samford RSL Sub-Branch for their vision and commitment to mark this Anzac Day 2015 as the most memorable that I have attended. I thank the community organisations that put all of their business differences aside and committed financially to provide this beautiful memorial. I also personally thank Queensland Senator Claire Moore for assisting me in a generous gold-level donation towards the Avenue of Honour.

The day before, I also attended the Ferny Grove State School and listened to physical education teacher Gary Kirby provide a very moving speech about his son, who was killed in Afghanistan. Gary spoke about his son, Private Grant Kirby, who, with Private Tomas Dale, was tragically killed in action in 2010 when an improvised explosive device was detonated while they were on patrol in Afghanistan. As I indicated today in my first speech, I am familiar with Afghanistan, having attended Tarinkot in my previous role. I went to a forward operational base to speak to Afghan locals and hear them personally recognise the commitment and professionalism of our men and women of the ADF. It was a great opportunity to speak to those locals about the contribution our men and women make—sacrifices not only to their families but also in overseas deployments. Lest we forget.