




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Pine Rivers RSL, Memorial Gates

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (9.25 pm): Tonight I rise to bring to the House's attention a recent event which occurred in the electorate of Kallangur. On Saturday, 31 October the memorial gates at the Pine Rivers Sub Branch of the RSL on Anzac Avenue at Kallangur were rededicated and reopened after a lengthy and expensive refurbishment project. The rededication service included a touching speech from Mr Stewart Cameron, the Queensland RSL State President, and was well attended by Kallangur locals and military representatives. After the formalities when the gates were opened, the first people invited to walk through were the descendants of the original fallen soldiers the gates were erected to honour. Proudly standing as a guard of honour on each side were students from Undurba State School. These gates were originally erected as honour gates at the Lawnton showgrounds to commemorate the fallen from World War I back in 1923. Although I was not there at the time in 1923, I have it on good authority that when His Excellency the Governor Sir Matthew Nathan officially opened the gates he said the following words—

A gateway is an appropriate symbol of the war through which Australia entered into nationhood, and her soldiers passed to a foremost place into manhood of the world.

On each of the stone pillars are marble tablets and one of these tablets bears the names of 28 of our district's fallen soldiers. Over the years the gates were painted on several occasions and they fell into a state of disrepair. In 1980 the gates were moved to their current location in Kallangur and additional plaques were added to commemorate the fallen of World War II and those who served in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. It was discovered that the paint used to protect them had caused the stonework to rot which initiated the need for the improvement works. As part of the 100-year commemorations of the start of World War I, the Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch decided to have this important local monument restored. The cast-iron gates were also repaired during this project. The project also called for new marble plaques to acknowledge the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Generous donations from Moreton Bay Regional Council, various businesses and a grant from the Queensland government helped to contribute to the restoration of these gates and hopefully they will be around for another 100 years as a proud monument facing Anzac Avenue to remind all who visit of the history our area played in the world's conflicts, although it would be nice if no more marble plaques have to be added. I have mentioned before that we have a series of war memorials along Anzac Avenue from Petrie through Kallangur and into Mango Hill and they are really a touching tribute to the memory of those who have served.