




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Warrego Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.27 am): I was delighted to attend the memorial day at Trumpeters' Corner and the other Anzac Day functions throughout my electorate. Trumpeters' Corner is on the corner of Jeitz and Nine Mile Stock Route roads—halfway between Warra and Jandowae. It is a project of the Warra Progress and Heritage Society and the Friends of Trumpeters' Corner. I would like to pay tribute to Lyn Taylor, society secretary, for her dedication to the project and the efforts of society members.

Five bronze plaques were unveiled honouring the soldier settlers and nurses from the Warra and Jandowae districts who served in World War I and II. There was a very special unveiling of the 'Little French Digger' plaque that tells the story of a Jandowae airman, Tim Tovell, who smuggled a little French orphan, Henri, back to Australia in a chaff bag after World War I. Thanks also go to the O'Neill, Fogarty, Cosgrove, Elliot, Steggall and White families for their moving stories at the memorial day and their contribution to the plaques. One Tree Agriculture, Veivers Concreting and Steven McVeigh are also to be commended for their contribution to the respite shelter and picnic table.

Following the memorial day I attended the dawn service at St George which was officiated by Karl Hempstead, president of the St George RSL Sub Branch. Guest speaker Karen Berry detailed the service of some of the former service personnel from the St George district. I commend Karen for her desire to ensure local history is retained by the community. I was guest speaker at the Dirranbandi Anzac Day service, and I would like to thank Don Perkins and the Dirranbandi RSL for organising and officiating the Anzac service.

In 2017 it will be 100 years since the Battle of Beersheba. Beersheba has a connection with Dirranbandi. In command of the 12th Light Horse Regiment, who were in the charge of Beersheba, was Brigadier General William Grant who, after the war, lived in the Dirranbandi district. General Grant was recorded as personally giving the order to the 12th Light Horse Regiment prior to the battle: 'Men, you're fighting for water.' The statement 'Men, you're fighting for water' still resonates with the Dirranbandi community today but for different reasons.

At Charleville I joined George Donohue and his RSL sub-branch members for lunch and a customary game of two-up, which was enjoyed by many at the RSL. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the RSL members and sub-branches across the Warrego electorate for their efforts on Anzac Day 2016.