




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Helem Yumba; Centenary of Anzac Precinct

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (9.49 pm): Local Aboriginal leaders and elders play an important role in our community, and I believe it is important for me as a local member to work closely with elders. It was fabulous to have the opportunity to talk at length recently with the elders at Helem Yumba. Helem Yumba, a Central Queensland healing centre, is a community organisation in Rockhampton which offers support and counselling services for individuals and families at risk of domestic and family violence. I spoke with the elders about the health, education, ending discrimination and how we can work together to improve the lives of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I say thank you to Caroline, Rhonda, Richard and all of the staff who facilitated the meeting and to everyone who attended. I look forward to working with them into the future.

One of the things the elders and I did discuss is how we as a community can better honour, respect and remember the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who served and those who have made the extreme sacrifice for our country. I am proud that there are plans to honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served at the Emu Park Centenary of Anzac Precinct. Only by personalising war and giving names to those 45,000 Australians killed on the Western Front in World War I can we truly understand its terrible cost and then hopefully all work together towards creating a more peaceful world.

On the Anzac weekend I helped open the Centenary of Anzac Precinct gatehouse project at Emu Park, a project that helps tell those stories of Australians who served and died in war and on operational service. The entire Centenary of Anzac precinct is a prime example of community partnerships in action and I thank the funding partners for their contribution. I am so proud to have been involved in this partnership and to deliver the vision of the late Ross Coulter, a magnificent memorial for local people and visitors to quietly reflect on the great sacrifice of Australians who served and died in war and on operational service.

The Centenary of Anzac Precinct encompasses the true spirit of Anzac with its qualities of coverage, mateship and sacrifice and continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. I congratulate and thank everyone who has played a role in bringing this project to fruition, including President of RSL Emu Park Sub Branch, Mr Ron Robinson, and all of the members of the Emu Park RSL; Livingstone Shire Council; President of Pioneer Fitzroy Highlands RSL District, Mr Barry Vains; Mr Phil Luzzi; Ms Colleen Williams and the team and board at Bendigo Community Bank; Mr Dennis Ratcliffe and all of the Emu Park Lions; the wife of the late Ross Coulter, Mrs Kath Coulter; the Rockhampton Rotary Club; Mr Noel Gardener; Mr Scott Nicolas, Alexander Builders; Bill Gannon; Alderson & Associates Landscape Architects; Mr Noel Brady; Mr Mark Edmiston and Ms Michelle Black. Without these partnerships, this beautiful memorial precinct would not exist. Everyone who visits the precinct speaks about its beauty and how it inspires sombre reflection. I invite all of the members of parliament to visit the precinct sometime.