




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Anzac Day

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.42 am): I rise to make a small contribution regarding recent Anzac Day commemoration ceremonies in my electorate of Kallangur. I would love to be able to attend every ceremony that occurs in all the schools and groups in my area. Sadly, as is no doubt the case for all of us in this place, time and concurrent ceremonies prohibit this from happening.

Each service brings something different and it is always an emotive time. I was able to attend Narangba State School's Anzac ceremony, where Rebecca Beckwith from Legacy gave a powerful address on how they provide support to those who have served and their families. Narangba State School's ceremony is always special as one of the deputy principals, Mr Kerry Lofgren, has written a song, *Why do we cry on Anzac Day?* and it really tugs at the heartstrings when the school choir sings it.

This year, our naval remembrance ceremony was held a day earlier than the main Anzac services, which in my opinion was a better fit as the Navy deserves its own commemoration and its service is usually rushed between the dawn service and the main service on Anzac Day. I commend our local Pine Rivers subsection of the Naval Association and its cadets for a great service, which was held at our naval memorial on Anzac Avenue.

The RAAF Association also held a memorial, where we commemorated the two spitfire pilots, Wright and Chandler, who were tragically killed when they collided during a training exercise in 1944 near Petrie. We heard an address from a fellow serviceman, Ted, who spoke of the hard work from the ground staff who kept the planes in the air. Ted's career was as a ground staffer and he brought home to all just how much everyone in the force pulls their weight to keep our military aircraft flying properly. The incident has attracted great interest over the years. One of my old school mates, Robert Martin, has produced a DVD about it. One of my previous managers in the Queensland Electricity Commission, Mr Peter Dunn, has created a web page with a lot of information about the crash. Certainly at the ceremony I could tell that it is still an important part of the military history of my area.

Anzac Day arrived and the dawn service had a greater attendance than ever. It is always a great turnout at the RSL sub-branch at Norths, Kallangur, but this year the attendance was fantastic. I hope it continues to grow at this rate through the years to come. At the main service and during the parade, I was joined by my colleague Nikki Boyd. Together we proudly watched our local schools and clubs march past. After the official commemorations were over, I was pleased to be able to buy a cold one or two for some of the veterans celebrating at the RSL sub-branch and join in on some of their stories. My military experience was a lot less than theirs. However, I was able to swap a few stories from Kangaroo '89, the Northern Territory exercise that I was proud to be a part of when I was in the Army Reserves. As I said before, Anzac Day is always special to me. I hope that the commemorations continue to grow as time passes. Lest we forget.