




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Remembrance Day

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.10 pm): On Sunday I had the honour of attending the Remembrance Day commemorations at the Coolum-Peregian RSL Sub Branch. Every year the club proudly hosts a moving tribute to the thousands of men and women who have bravely served our country, many of whom never returned from war. Thanks to the efforts of the club's executive and members, as a community we are privileged to pay our respects and honour their memory and legacy.

Apart from Anzac Day, there is no doubt this is one of the most important events on their annual calendar. There is such a strong sense of mateship, pride and honour on display at these events. It is a truly humbling and emotional experience to share the tradition with those who once served our nation. As a community we have a shared responsibility to honour our service men and women—a responsibility we share with the RSL branch members who spend countless hours organising and planning annual commemoration services.

When the Coolum-Peregian RSL Sub Branch issued an SOS in the lead-up to this year's Remembrance Day service I had cause for alarm. The club, which recently celebrated its 45th year and which forms such a vital part of the social fabric of our wider community, is in danger of shutting its doors for the last time. As a result of dwindling membership, this subbranch, which has hosted some of the largest Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services on the coast, is at risk of becoming yet another page in our history. Secretary Joe Daenens was spot on when he said it would be a real shame for the community if the club folded. Not only does the club provide social interactions and fellowship, it also serves a vital role providing a range of welfare services for returned service men and women. According to Joe they are family.

More importantly, RSL clubs are the rightful home of our annual commemorations. They are the literal barracks that chronicle our nation's right to freedom. As a community we need to do everything we can to help preserve them. In the case of the Coolum-Peregian RSL Sub Branch, the club is currently without a president and an executive. If these roles cannot be filled the club may be forced to close. I have no doubt there are many clubs across our state facing a similar fate. As the years pass many of our older veterans are no longer able to continue in their volunteer roles supporting the ongoing work of the RSL. By sharing the story of the Coolum-Peregian RSL Sub Branch tonight I hope we can help inspire our community to reach out and support the wonderful work they continue to do, preserving our nation's rich history and legacy and honouring those past and present who have served our country.