




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (11.04 pm): Last week I am sure most of us attended Anzac Day dawn services and marches throughout our electorates. I would like to thank my local RSL President Ken Golden for once again hosting a truly moving dawn service at Helensvale. It was great to see so many young people involved in this year's dawn service.

This year was truly special for one of my local cenotaphs at Upper Coomera. This year marks 100 years since its official unveiling. It was truly a great honour to address the crowd about the history of this wonderful cenotaph and the reason it came to be. I seek leave to table the speech.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Anzac Day speech, undated [\[616\]](#).

The cenotaph is located at the corner of Charlies Crossing and Tamborine Oxenford Road at Upper Coomera at the former entrance to the Bonnie Brea property. It was officially unveiled on Saturday, 18 May 1918 by William A Foxwell, chairman of the Coomera District Patriotic Committee, and Sir Edward Henry Macartney MLA. This memorial catalogues the names of all the local fallen World War I and World War II diggers. The memorial is a life-size digger standing with eyes down, arms and rifle reversed. The purpose of the rifle reversed is to denote those who have fallen rather than those who enlisted, which is in contrast to some other memorials.

Over the years, unfortunately the memorial has seen its fair share of vandalism. A fair bit of restoration was undertaken in 1978 and again in 1990 and, more recently, in 2015. At one stage somebody smashed the digger's hat off. They even shot at the cenotaph—about a hundred .22 calibre bullets were removed from it. Vandals even stole the rifle. With the love and care of the Coomera Valley Rotary Club this beautiful cenotaph has been restored to its original glory.

I thank the members of our rotary club for their dedication in running a service every year at this beautiful cenotaph, in particular Malcolm Cummings, Warren Edwards, Tony Lines, Rick McElhinney and Jane Padden. There is a massive team of very dedicated people. To give members an idea, around 4,000 to 5,000 people every year turn up to the Anzac Day service at this beautiful cenotaph.