



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Anzac Day

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.09 pm): Last week in cities and towns around Australia, as well as outposts all over the world, Australians came together and paused to pay tribute, commemorate and give thanks to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice nearly a century ago. Anzac Day is a big day in our house, as both my husband and I served in the Australian Army at home and overseas and have been attending dawn services together for over 20 years, although admittedly these days our marches require a little less Brasso and boot polish than they once did.

Last Wednesday I attended a number of marches and services throughout Logan. At Springwood I was pleased to join our former servicewomen at the head of the parade, as was seen in marches throughout the country. I acknowledge the initiative of the By the Left organisation, which seeks to demythologise the increasing appearance of female veterans in our society. At the Springwood service, retired Major General Low Choy gave a keynote speech in which he charged the young people in attendance with continuing and upholding the traditions not only of the day but also of what the Anzac legend encompasses.

I remember the first time I heard then Brigadier Low Choy speak, which was when he addressed my army recruit course in 1994. He challenged me and my cohort to make a career of service, noting that most uniformed careers last less than seven years. I took him up on that challenge, as did others present that day. The officer cadet who sat next to me on that day, a friend and colleague of over 20 years, also spoke last week at Springwood as the Commanding Officer of 25/49 Royal Queensland Regiment. Also at Springwood I watched my daughter participate in her first-ever Anzac Day march with her Girl Guide unit, which is a proud moment for any mum and one that brought back memories of marching with my Brownie Guide unit way back in the 1980s.

Once again this year's services at Beenleigh were a credit to the Beenleigh and Districts Returned Services League, under the stewardship of President David Draper. The dawn service, gunfire breakfast, march, commemorative service, lunch and the usual activities at the club represent their biggest day of the year and they do not disappoint. The sea of young faces at the dawn and morning services is always a source of pride, with each parade featuring local schoolchildren who were proudly wearing their family medals. I recognise the participation of St Matthew's Catholic Primary School and the Chisholm Catholic College drum line at Springwood, and the Mount Warren Park State School and Beenleigh State High School which supported the services at Beenleigh.

I always look forward to seeing the TS Walrus Australian Navy Cadets, 11 Army Cadet Unit and the Air Force Cadets participating. I see those young people taking up Major General Low Choy's challenge. We look to those young people to carry on the traditions. I look forward to seeing them at future services. Lest we forget.