




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Anzac Day

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.39 pm): The Anzac spirit is growing every year in my area. I am pleased to say that in the new electorate of Kurwongbah the community and schools are proudly involved. The participation this year of school students in particular was amazing. As I am sure all of us in this place would agree, we would love to be able to attend every one of our schools' Anzac services. However, time and the concurrent scheduling of these services sadly stops this from being possible.

This year I was personally able to get along to Burpengary State Secondary College for a full school service where we heard from Jeff Korn, a Vietnam veteran, who read a moving poem that his father had written. Some students then performed a heartwarming version of John Schumann's *I Was Only 19*. It was a touching tribute that moved Jeff in particular as the song was written through the experience of a Vietnam veteran.

I also got along to Narangba State School's Anzac service where once again deputy principal Kerry Lofgren's song *Why Do You Cry on Anzac Day*, sung by the school choir with a moving video as a backdrop, left no dry eyes in the hall. The guest speaker was Ms Alex Growden from Legacy, who gave us an overview of the great work that Legacy does for our veterans' families.

This year for the first time as the new member for Kurwongbah I was able to attend the dawn service at Burpengary. The memorial there is spectacular and the new lighting gave great effect to a moving service. I had heard about the lighting and the significance of the memorial posts and plaques, but seeing it in the predawn light with a huge crowd sure does the hard work of the Burpengary War Memorial Committee justice.

I attended the main parade and service back at Kallangur and I was once again amazed at the number of schools that marched. Standing on the dais with my colleague Steven Miles and representatives of Chris Whiting as well as my neighbour Nikki Boyd, who had the amazing Ali France as a representative, were local councillors Denise Sims and Julie Greer as well as the always present Yvonne Chapman, we thought the procession would never end. As I said earlier, the participation of school students just gets better every year. It must warm the hearts of veterans to know their legacy is being remembered with such pride by our youth. I was pleased to see the catafalque party this year was RAEME, which was my corps when I was in the Army Reserve many years ago with 104 Field Workshop at Bulimba.

Once the service was over, as always I was pleased to be able to buy a cold one or two for some of the veterans at our local sub-branch behind Norths Leagues & Services Club. I was joined this year by my new neighbour Steven Miles, and together we listened to a few stories. It certainly is amazing to consider the experience that some of these soldiers went through and the respect I have for them grows each time I talk to them.

As I have said before, Anzac Day is always special to me and I know that the respect and commemorations will continue to grow as time passes. Lest we forget.