




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Cooper Electorate, Ithaca War Memorial

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.17 pm): Baxter, Bridge, McFarlane and Walker—these are some of the names etched on to the Ithaca War Memorial on Enoggera Terrace in Paddington. Designed and built between 1921 and 1925, the Ithaca War Memorial is modest and unique and accordingly was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992. Starting off in 1916 as an honour board, a year later the community had mobilised and developed a public memorial proposal. Despite struggling to attract a funding commitment from the council at the time, the memorial proposal pushed ahead with locals fundraising through donations, fetes and concerts. By 1921 the community had raised the £650 required to engage council, and the decision was made to design a monument which would have the names of the fallen engraved upon it.

The Ithaca War Memorial was unveiled on 25 February 1922 by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan. The stone memorial honours the 130 local men who died on active service during the First World War. Each year my office—under myself, Kate Jones before me and Andrew Fraser before her—coordinates the Anzac Day service at Ithaca. However, this year is a special year. It is the centennial anniversary of the memorial. We put it out to our community partners to see if there was interest in holding a special event this year—which really was a rhetorical question to ask because of course they were exuberant about the opportunity to celebrate this important aspect of our local history.

Along with our community partners, we are now driving our 100 stories for 100 years project, bringing into the light the names, faces and stories that sit behind our historical suburb of Paddington. We are encouraging anyone with a link to Ithaca to please get in touch. We have a Facebook group, the Ithaca War Memorial Centenary 2022. I want to acknowledge our wonderful supporting agencies: the Ashgrove and Bardon RSL; the Ithaca Presbyterian Church and the Boys Brigade; the former member for Ashgrove, Andrew Fraser; the Rosalie Baptist Church; the Jubilee Catholic Parish; the Bardon Girl Guides; the Bardon Scouts; Bardon State School; Ithaca Creek State School; Women Veterans Australia; the War Widows Guild; and the councillor for Paddington ward, Peter Matic, and the Brisbane City Council.

I particularly want to acknowledge Paddington Then and Now, a local small business focused on historical preservation and celebration and the organisation we have contracted to work with us on this project. Paddington Then and Now are driving the 100 Stories 100 Years project, and have already partnered with groups like Brisbane Urban Sketchers to capture this nostalgic node in Paddington.

The Ithaca Anzac Day Centennial event will go ahead on Anzac Day from 7.15 am on Enoggera Terrace. We welcome anyone along to the event. There have been many different types of war memorials erected in Queensland; however, clock towers are comparatively rare. The memorial at Ithaca is the earliest of this type of memorial and is the only one of its type in Brisbane, so it is well worth prioritising for your Anzac Day service.