



Speech By  
**Robert Skelton**


**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Anzac Day**

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.21 pm): Today in the lead-up to Anzac Day, I would like to remember and honour the brave men and women of the Sunshine Coast who have served in the Australian Defence Force, Merchant Navy and Nursing Corps. Like many others, I will be attending my local cenotaph on Tuesday as Anzac Day holds a special significance in the hearts and minds of all Australians as it reminds us of the sacrifices made by our sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses in the service of their country. They left their homes, families and jobs to defend our freedoms and values, to fight for what they believed in and to ensure that future generations would not have to suffer the horrors of war.

In World War I, in what was called the North Coast at the time, our region sent nearly 30,000 young people off to what was to be called the Great War. Far too few made it home. On this day in 1915, more than 200 ships were assembled in the harbour at Moudros on the island of Lemnos, Greece, in preparation for the invasion of Turkey under the command of General Ian Hamilton. The Anzacs were amongst them, listening to the guns of the battleships pounding the Turkish emplacements in the distance, preparing to land on the peninsula known as Gallipoli. This would happen on the 25th. It is forever more our day of remembrance.

We remember the families who mourn their loss and the communities that felt the impact of all wars. We honour the veterans who returned home, many of whom carry the physical and emotional scars of this service. We are grateful for the sacrifices made by these brave men and women. They have helped shape our country, our values and our way of life. Their service ensured that we can live in a peaceful and prosperous society where freedom, justice and equality are cherished values.

I pay tribute to the veterans and volunteers from Nambour RSL, Yandina-Eumundi RSL, Cooroy-Pomona RSL and Palmwoods and District RSL sub-branches. I acknowledge our region's schools holding services. Their ongoing efforts to commemorate the fallen reminds us all of the need to pay our respects to those who came before.

From the Boer War to more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the men and women of the Sunshine Coast, and indeed all of Queensland, have served with honour, courage and distinction. Let us renew our commitment to the values that they fought for and let us strive to live up to the high standards of courage, honour and selflessness that they embodied. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten and their service will always be remembered. Lest we forget.