




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.34 pm): Anzac Day holds a sacred place in the hearts of Australians, particularly for those who have served and those who continue to serve our nation. This year's Anzac Day services on the northern Gold Coast were particularly memorable. After 17 years at the previous location at the Coomera CWA hall, the Maudsland dawn service has found a new home at Cliff Bird Park in Maudsland. This beautiful park, nestled in the Coomera Valley at the foothills of Tamborine Mountain, is an ideal setting for a permanent memorial. Plans are underway to build a new cenotaph which is fulfilling an LNP commitment at the last state election.

Despite challenging weather conditions on Anzac Day, the spirit of the Anzacs in our local community shone through. Geoff Benson, who is a local veteran of the 2nd 14th Light Horse, has been hosting the Anzac Day at Maudsland for 17 years and I am grateful his noble tradition will continue long into the future. He was supported by his old unit, the 2nd 14th Light Horse, which has been unwavering in its support of him over the years. I want to extend a great deal of gratitude to Geoff, the 2nd 14th Light Horse, the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade and Helensvale Lions for their dedication in working on this service for all of these years and making it such a success.

Recently the Upper Coomera cenotaph was relocated from its home where it stood for over 100 years at Charlies Crossing Road North and Tamborine Oxenford Road. It is now located in Tallowwood Park in Upper Coomera, and I must say that it looks absolutely magnificent in its new location. It has been fully restored to its original glory. This cenotaph now stands proudly elevated on the hill overlooking the countryside and locals can continually walk around it to read its inscriptions given that, unfortunately, they could not do that at its previous location due to the massive amount of traffic. It is lit up at night and this ensures any passing motorist can see its beauty and what it stands for. Most humbling was the fact that after the Anzac Day service young children were walking around with their parents asking their parents what the names meant, what the inscriptions meant and who these people were. I also want to thank the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, Main Roads and Warren Edwards for all of their hard work on this project. Also, a huge special thanks goes to Colonel Gabrielle Raffin of the 11th Brigade for commissioning the relocation on Anzac Day. Her inspiring speech will be remembered by those young people for many years to come.