




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Anzac Day

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.08 pm): This Saturday we commemorate Anzac Day and acknowledge the heroic World War I sacrifices of thousands of young men who paid the ultimate price in defending our nation. On 25 April 1915, half a million allied troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. After the eight-month campaign, the allied forces quietly abandoned Gallipoli, leaving behind thousands of graves.

Of the 57,000 allied troops killed, 8,700 were Australians. We get a small glimpse of agonising life in the Gallipoli trenches in Albert Facey's book *A Fortunate Life*, where he describes constant and severe shelling, machine gunfire, snipers, trench warfare, isolation, body lice, cholera and the stench of death. Approaching the shore in small boats, the Anzacs were exposed to heavy rifle fire by the Turks, who were strategically perched on coastal cliffs. A British journalist observed in the *Sydney Morning Herald*—

The Australians rose to the occasion. They did not wait for orders or for the boats to reach the beach, but sprang into the sea, formed a sort of rough line, and rushed the enemy's trenches.

Some might say this gave rise to the Anzac spirit: courage, mateship, endurance and resourcefulness.

In Hervey Bay a cenotaph commemorates and honours the men who served in World War I and subsequent conflicts. The unveiling of the cenotaph occurred on 17 July 1921 by Mr Huxley Taylor, who had lost two sons at the front. When performing the unveiling ceremony he said—

I unveil this stone to the memory of the brave men who made the supreme sacrifice.

Indeed, this would have been a personal and emotional moment for Mr Taylor. The World War I part of the monument lists 112 men, of whom 22 died. On Anzac Day thousands of local people in Hervey Bay gather at Freedom Park to commemorate our fallen. We have arguably the largest RSL sub branch in Queensland, and they do a terrific job of looking after our veterans. I will be attending the dawn service and then later a service at the TSS Maheno site at Fraser-K'gari Island. We respect and honour our fallen Anzacs and acknowledge our courageous Defence Force veterans past and present and thank them for their service. I aptly conclude with a stanza from a poem called *For the Fallen*—

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them

Lest we forget.

