

Mr David Templeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Monty House; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bill McNee; Mr John Bowler; Ms Jaye Radisich

ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL 2004

Second Reading

Resumed from 23 March.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [3.07 pm]: I am very pleased to make some brief comments about this Bill, which was introduced into the Legislative Assembly when it met in Albany in April this year. As the Premier said in his second reading speech, it was significant that the Bill was introduced when the Legislative Assembly met in Albany. As the Premier outlined, the Bill seeks to ensure that Anzac Day is recognised appropriately and that various other legislation is amended to ensure that Anzac Day remains the most significant of Australia's national days of remembrance and celebration.

Like other members of this House, I attended an Anzac Day ceremony on 25 April. This year I attended the ceremony in Mandurah, as I have done for a number of years. It is important that growing cities like Mandurah plan for the accommodation of Anzac Day celebrations in the future. Unfortunately, in the past few years there has been much debate about the war memorial in Mandurah. However, I am pleased that, after much consultation and some degree of angst, we have at least a firm commitment on where the war memorial will be located. Quite a lot of community discussion took place and concerns were raised. I am pleased that now that the planning has begun and a consultative committee has been established, Anzac Day 2005 will be held at the new war memorial site.

At this point, I pay tribute to the Mandurah Returned and Services League sub-branch. I believe this branch has one of the biggest memberships of returned service men and women outside the metropolitan area. I congratulate Mr Brien Bush, the president of the RSL Mandurah sub-branch, the committee and all the veterans in Mandurah who have served this country admirably in a variety of conflicts in Australia's past. I also congratulate the men and women who continue to attend the dawn service, which I also attended, along with a number of people in Mandurah. They turn up with their families at not only the dawn services, but also the Anzac Day ceremonies held in Mandurah each year. It is the tradition in Mandurah for the RSL sub-branch to ask a young person from one of our secondary schools to address those present. When I say "address those present" I am referring to a couple of thousand people who not only line the streets of Mandurah, but also move down to where the ceremony is held. The number of people involved amounts to huge crowds, the size of which is increasing. I am very pleased about that, because it is significant that huge numbers of people of all ages and backgrounds are turning up in many communities throughout Australia to show their respect for the men and women who have served this country so gallantly in conflicts to ensure our freedom.

This year the young person who spoke was Natasha Breen from Mandurah Senior College. Natasha spoke from her perspective and as a person representing the young people of not only Mandurah and the Peel region but, indeed, Australia. She spoke of the great courage and mateship that is epitomised by the Anzac tradition. She spoke of the hopes for the future and the freedoms that these men and women have given us. She spoke also as a young person about her hope that the young people of today will not only inherit but take forward the wonderful values that these men and women have instilled and will instil in generations hence.

The Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2004 is an important Bill. It is important, particularly as we move into uncertain times, that we remember Anzac Day and give it all the respect, recognition and acknowledgment that it deserves, and that we continue to value and remember those men and women in our history who have served, and those men and women in the future who will serve, this country with great courage and gallantry.

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin) [3.11 pm]: I wish to make a few brief comments on the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2004. Obviously the National Party supports the Bill. Over the past few years in our schools there has been a real lift in support for Anzac Day. That has been occurring naturally among our young people. Many young people have made the trip to Gallipoli. Perhaps in the early days of my generation there was a bit of a gap in people's recognition of the importance of Anzac Day, but the whole history and relevance of Anzac Day has again come to the fore. The second reading speech mentions a program to send selected school students from around the State on a trip to Gallipoli. The member for Murdoch has just come back from one such trip. That is a terrific initiative, and I fully support it. It is important that students have the opportunity to go on such a trip, because they will come back from that trip and talk to their peers and spread the word. Given that only six World War I veterans are still alive and no Anzacs are still alive, it is important that the Anzac tradition continues to grow as time goes on.

The second reading speech also mentions a program for the maintenance and restoration of war memorials. One of the great things about Australia is the war memorials that can be found in almost every city and town. Even my own small home town of Jingalup has a war memorial. That program should be applauded, because it is important and will probably become even more important in the future.

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I am a little concerned about the proposal to make Anzac Day services in state schools compulsory. I do not believe we need to force schools and the community to commemorate the Anzacs, because it is already happening naturally. I am a little concerned that if we make it compulsory it will have a detrimental effect. I will be interested to hear the comments of other members on that matter. It is a terrific idea to place emphasis in the school curriculum on Anzac Day and what it means, and on how the Anzacs have galvanised our nation and put us on the map. As long as we continue to promote and treat Anzac Day with the deference it deserves, it will gain importance over the years. I think that in 100 years Anzac Day will probably be even bigger, but in a different way.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.14 pm]: I commend one of Jingalup's proudest sons, the member for Wagin, for his fine speech. He is a credit to his heritage.

I am very proud to support the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2004. It is important to enshrine in law the true significance of Anzac Day. It is essential that we remember and honour our fallen. On Anzac Day we commemorate the heroism, courage and sacrifice of many young Australians who served in the armed forces in the two world wars and in other conflicts. Over 60 000 Australians lost their lives in World War I and over 40 000 Australians lost their lives in World War II. The names of the fallen and missing appear on monuments and graves throughout the length and breadth of this country, and in 146 locations throughout the world in the theatres of war in Europe, Africa and Asia. In most of those locations, the loss of those lives is commemorated each Anzac Day.

With the indulgence of the House, I will tell members the story about one of the names that appears on the war memorial at Wanneroo; that is, Private Albert Barnett Facey junior, known as Barney to his friends and family. Barney was not an Anzac. He in fact served in World War II. However, his story humanises the Anzac story and demonstrates the reason that we need to maintain our respect and commemorate with some degree of gravity the occasion.

Not long after the outbreak of World War II Barney joined the Western Australian Second-Fourth Machine Gun Battalion. Before joining up Barney had been a truck driver and had also worked for a market gardener in Wanneroo. He was a big lad and was a little over six-foot tall. Barney's military training had been very demanding. Contemporary accounts describe his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Anketell, as a stickler for physical fitness. One of the features of the training was a 60-mile route march from Northam to Perth in March 1941, which ended in the city to welcoming cheers and waves from family, city workers and shoppers.

Barney's battalion left for Singapore by ship in late January 1942. Singapore was already in the thick of action and was subject to daily raids from Japanese bombers. In the weeks that followed, the fighting escalated, and there was little respite from enemy machine gun mortar and bombers overhead. Official dispatches noted that the Western Australians had acquitted themselves magnificently. Despite this, the second-fourth suffered heavy losses, and Singapore eventually fell to the Japanese. The day Singapore fell - Sunday, 15 February 1942 - was bright and sunny. However, it was Barney's last. He was wounded in the back by shrapnel on Cemetery Hill and died a few minutes later. Barney had just turned 23. Barney was reported missing. With the fall of Singapore, a number of Barney's comrades were executed by the Japanese and many became prisoners of war and worked on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway. Years later, Barney's father, A.B. Facey, wrote in his book *A Fortunate Life* about the uncertainty of having a son missing -

I don't know how we got through the four years that Barney was missing. We used to be hungry for news - if we overheard anyone saying anything which sounded interesting, we'd listen in and ask them questions. We would have given anything just to find out something.

Also described in his book was the reaction of Barney's mother, Evelyn -

Evelyn would sit at the kitchen table to write Barney while he was missing and tears would run down her face onto the paper while she was writing - not knowing if the letter would ever reach him.

It was not until May 1945 that Barney's family were informed of his death. This devastating news coincided with the birthday of his mother, Evelyn. In August 1945, the war ended, and, happily, Barney's brothers, George and Joseph, who were also soldiers, returned home safely. Lest we forget.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [3.20 pm]: I support the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2004. My electorate of Albany has a special significance in relation to Anzac Day. The diggers left from Albany, which was the last sighting of land they had before they went overseas, some of them never to return. They left through the Albany heads.

In my office behind my desk I have a photograph of the Anzacs on a pyramid in Egypt. Many of the young guys in the photo are the age of my son, who is only 19, and some are probably even younger. Off they went to war.

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They had that look of adventure on their faces. They did not know what they would find down the track. If members look closely at this photo, they will see a dead man in full uniform being held up by a couple of his mates. This shows the rascal nature of the Australian Army. The man had died that morning, but his mates did not want him to miss out on being in the photo. An old digger who came into my office pointed out this dead fella up the back.

Albany has a very special place in the Anzac tradition. We are lucky that the Albany dawn service is now recognised as an icon. The then Acting Premier, Eric Ripper, was in Albany for this year's Anzac Day memorial dawn service, and he said it was one most emotional things he had ever experienced. Once the service is over, everyone looks out to sea as two flares are let off at the heads where the ships went out, and wreaths are laid. There rarely is a dry eye in the house.

The 10.30 morning service is always full. Even though it was held during school holidays this year, all the schoolchildren turned up in school uniform, marched in front of their school flag and did a special presentation in front of the diggers, who stood and saluted the kids as they passed. This is all part of the continuing tradition. The Gallipoli Student Tour scheme is in place, and young Aaron Porebski was selected for the trip overseas. He returned to Albany with a great deal of information about what happened in the Somme and at Gallipoli. He speaks at his school and visits other schools to pass on the message. He is the sort of young person to carry the future of Australians in remembering the Anzac soldiers. Young Saffron Sharp from North Albany Senior High School spoke at the dawn service in Perth. She was unsuccessful in her application to be part of the group of 12 young people who travelled overseas. However, she spoke at the service in Perth in front of 20 000 people, and anyone who was lucky enough to hear her speech - it was replayed on the radio in Albany - would have found it a moving experience. She is looking forward to letting people know in the future how the Australian diggers gave their lives for their country. Young children are becoming involved in this tradition. All the schools in Albany are involved. I received a newsletter from a school indicating that only half the kids turned up this year, and that the school must make a stronger representation. The support is terrific, as shown by the kids in Albany turning up in school uniform. A couple of the prefects at Albany Senior High School live in the hinterland 80 or 100 kilometres from town, yet they gave up their holiday to come to Albany to march with their school to remember those who have fallen to give them their freedom.

The Anzac Day Amendment Bill is tremendous legislation. When I am having a bad day or feeling a little down, I look at the photograph of all the young men in Egypt who thought they were on a big adventure. They gave their lives for their country, and we must never forget them.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.25 pm]: I support the Bill. I congratulate the Premier and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, the member for Rockingham, for bringing the measure to the House. Obviously, the Bill confirms the status of Anzac Day, and sets out the reasons for Anzac Day being celebrated on 25 April each year. This is a small token that we, as parliamentarians, can pay for the giant sacrifices made by Australians from the 1914-18 war through to the present day.

I record my thanks to the serving troops and officers from Cockburn who laid down their lives and made a huge effort in two world wars, as well as subsequent wars after 1945 in which Australia was involved. Obviously, very few World War I veterans are left. None is left in Cockburn, I believe. Certainly, memorials are found in Hamilton Hill, at the corner of Rockingham Road and Carrington Street, and in Beale Park in Spearwood, to the people of Cockburn who made the ultimate sacrifice for the defence of Australia and its supporting countries. Many World War II veterans are still alive, with many still active in Cockburn. I refer to people like John Wade who was wounded at Tobruk. He fondly remembers smoking Italian officers' cigars after the battle of Tobruk. Maté Ravlich can be often seen around Spearwood on his little four-wheel-drive scooter, which always proudly flies the Australian flag on its aerial. He can be seen all over Spearwood, sometimes causing a bit of a nuisance to traffic, but he is fondly looked after by residents of Spearwood, by officials of the local council, by people like me and by the police. I refer to people like Jim Paiano, who served in the first field squadron of the Royal Australian Engineers in Nui Dat, in a war subsequent to 1945 that many Australians would like to forget - namely, the war in Vietnam. Over the past few years, people are acknowledging and accepting the efforts of those who served in Vietnam, and rightly so. I also mention those who served the forces of Australia in peace time and in wartime: I acknowledge people like Les Richardson; Stephen Surrey; the famous Wally Hagen, who used to play for South Fremantle and is a freeman of the City of Cockburn; Ken Hynes; Robert Lenson; Timothy Seats; Christopher Martinovich; Barry Wilson; Lionel O'Neil; Laurence Miles; Henry Hoyer; Kevin Hull; Frank Garbin; Henry Adie-Cooper; George Smart; and Charles Parker. They are some of the many people who are still around who served Australia in peacetime and wartime in the World War II and subsequent conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Primarily, I mention the great work done in my electorate by the Cockburn Returned and Services League, which is an active branch. The club's president is Mr Bruce Harrower, the secretary is Vic Boreham, and the public

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relations officer this year is Arthur Stanton, who is a former treasurer. I also acknowledge Terry Whitwam, who is a volunteer from the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam and the Western Australian Vietnam War Veterans Association. All those people provide a fantastic service to war veterans and to those in my electorate of Cockburn who served Australia. They have just renovated a significant part of the Cockburn sub-branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia. They rebuilt the hall and installed new airconditioning, a new kitchen and a new bar. It was a fantastic sight to see, compared with what was there before. They raised the money from various sources and built it all by themselves, with some assistance from contractors.

Mr M.F. Board: Enthusiastically, I imagine.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: They were very enthusiastic about raising the money themselves. They did a fantastic job not only of raising the money but also of building and renovating the premises. It a great credit to them. Since the renovation, they have finalised the construction of a memorial garden, which is made of bricks. It is a very large structure in the shape of a cross, inside which is a series of red roses to acknowledge the war dead - those who made the ultimate sacrifice. At the top of the cross is a wall of remembrance highlighting members of the RSL who have since passed on. The families of the war dead left behind can purchase plaques and have them inserted on the back of the wall of remembrance or along the wall of the rose garden of remembrance.

Another thing that the Cockburn RSL does, which makes all the people of Cockburn and me proud, is organise the Anzac youth march. This year 1 100 students attended the Anzac youth march. It is not only the largest Anzac youth march in Western Australia but also the only Anzac youth march in Perth and, to my knowledge, in Western Australia. This year 1 100 year 7 and high school students participated in the march. It was a great sight to see 1 100 students marching down Spearwood Avenue to the memorial at Beale Park, led by a jeep, a military half-track vehicle and horsemen. It was an unbelievable sight. It is indicative of the way in which the RSL in Cockburn plays an active part in keeping the memory of the Anzacs alive throughout the schools in the Cockburn electorate. I give full marks to all the work those people do, particularly Arthur Stanton, whose idea it was to have the Anzac youth march. I pay the highest regards to him and to all those in the RSL who keep alive the memory of the Anzacs who paid the ultimate price.

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [3.32 pm]: I add my support to the Bill. I will make some brief comments about Anzac Day that I have experienced since I migrated to Australia. When I first came to Australia I did not quite understand what Anzac Day was about. In Ireland, obviously, Anzac Day is not a public holiday and we did not acknowledge it with a service. However, when I came to Australia and became involved in the scouting movement, I began to learn how important Anzac Day was to Australians and how important it is to pass that on to younger people.

Some 20 years ago, I went with some scouts to the Anzac Day dawn service and parade at Wanneroo, which is conducted every year by the Wanneroo-Joondalup Returned and Services League of Australia. One year the scouts decided not to participate in the parade because we sought to involve them in a camp that would last longer than two nights and the only weekend we could do that was the Anzac weekend. Another issue we found was that at that time of the morning many scouts, both male and female, did not quite make it all the way through the service and the parade for various reasons; usually because they had not had an appropriate breakfast. Many of them, therefore, did not appreciate the significance of Anzac Day and did not have the opportunity to listen to some of the diggers who spoke about their wartime experiences.

On that Anzac weekend we took a group of 30 to 35 scouts to Dwellingup. A couple of ex-servicemen who were with us that weekend spoke to the scouts about the Anzacs and what they meant to them. Over the course of the weekend one of the young people in the camp, a girl, learnt to play the *Last Post* and *Reveille* on a concert flute. On the morning of Anzac Day, as usual, we were all up at the crack of dawn. The kids still had not had breakfast, but they were all very anxious to see what was going to happen, as we were not having the traditional Anzac Day march to the war memorial at Wanneroo. Some of those young people talked about what Anzac Day meant to them and I will try to set the scene for members of that morning in the forest in Dwellingup. It was a very cold morning with a lot of mist rising from the ground and the air covered in a fairly heavy fog. It was quite an eerie feeling. When that young girl played the *Last Post* and *Reveille* on her concert flute as the flags were raised and lowered, the hairs were standing up on the back of my neck, and I know they were standing up on the back of the neck of every young person at that service. That was a good 15 years ago, I think, and to this day I continue to meet some of these young people who reiterate to me the experience of that morning and that the meaning of Anzac Day sunk through to them, regardless of the fact that none of the old diggers was at that service. That was probably because of the cold and quite possibly because there was such an eerie feeling with the fog and mist; however, I believe on that morning we managed to get the meaning of the Anzacs through to about 30 to 35 young people. I have noticed at the Anzac services I have attended since becoming a member of Parliament that many of those young people continue to show up at those services to pay their respects to the diggers who paid the ultimate price by giving their lives. To me, Anzac Day is very important and it is important

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to pass on the meaning of Anzac Day to young people. As I said earlier, it was passed on to me at a time when I had no knowledge of it prior to coming to Australia in 1981, and I think I have managed to pass it on to quite a number of young people.

In Joondalup we have the privilege of being serviced by the Wanneroo-Joondalup RSL and the Beaumaris Beach RSL. Traditionally in Joondalup on Anzac Day there is a silent service at Central Park and the participants in that service then go to Wanneroo to participate in the parade and the service there. The service this year was slightly different. The Beaumaris Beach RSL invited me to address the Anzac service at Whitfords Sea Sports Club, not at the war memorial, as that was felt to be the appropriate venue. Whitfords Sea Sports Club is in the Beaumaris section of Ocean Reef and it was felt appropriate to commemorate the Anzacs on the coast. It was not a very large ceremony, but it was very moving. About 100 to 150 people attended the service, which acknowledged some of the local people in the Joondalup and Ocean Reef areas for their services to the Anzacs. Doug Rasmussen was one of the Beaumaris Beach RSL people who invited me to the service. I thank him and Theo Harris, the President of the Beaumaris Beach sub-branch of the RSL, for organising the service and for giving me the opportunity to speak that morning. It was difficult for me to read my written speech, as there were no lights. I therefore had to resort to plan B; that is, to tell them about the morning in Dwellingup 15 years ago when those 30 to 35 young people got a sense of the Anzac legend. I support the Bill. It is important that we keep reminding ourselves that there is no benefit from war. The worst things to come out of war are death and suffering. The more we can do to prevent war and promote peace the better.

MR M.G. HOUSE (Stirling) [3.40 pm]: I want to make a couple of brief points. I can remember as a young person the marches of the ex-service people in my home town from the war memorial at the western end of town to the town hall at the eastern end of town, a distance of approximately one kilometre. The street would be lined with people from the district who proudly recognised those ex-servicemen and women as they marched down the street. They would remember those who had lost their lives in a number of conflicts until that time shortly after the Second World War. Since then the marches have been extended to recognise people involved in conflicts such as those in Korea and Vietnam. As time went by numbers dwindled because people largely forgot, left the district or did not think there was as much significance about Anzac Day as people had originally thought. Those Anzac Day ceremonies were moving experiences and they have stayed in my mind as events I will remember forever. I am the proud son of an ex-serviceman, a fighter pilot who served in the Second World War. He flew three and a half tours. He was shot down three times and lived to tell the tale. I am very proud of my father because he served in that World War with such distinction. I think he is still the most highly decorated fighter pilot from Western Australia to have served in the Royal Australian Air Force.

The second point I want to make is with regard to the dawn services in Albany that I have attended now for some years. I listened to what the member for Albany said a while ago. I concur with what he said about some moments being very moving. One cannot but be moved as the sun comes up over the ocean and people stand silently, recognising that the original Anzac convoy sailed from King George Sound. A wonderful picture of the ships lined up in King George Sound just prior to sailing appears in a number of places in Albany. It is certainly in the Albany City Council building. People are reminded every year of the fact that it was the last bit of Australian soil that many young people saw before making the supreme sacrifice and losing their lives. It was certainly a wonderful and moving service.

I intend to support the legislation, but I want to make a point about one part of it that I do not support and about which I feel quite strongly. It is the part that makes Anzac Day services in state schools compulsory. There is a huge amount of pride and recognition in young people attending Anzac Day services. We can see the pride that they have in their fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers. In many cases they are the nieces, nephews or other relatives of ex-servicemen and women who either made the supreme sacrifice with their lives during war or have since passed on.

It is wonderful to see the increased participation in Anzac Day. One sees many young people attending every Anzac service one goes to, whether in small country towns or large regional centres. They do not need to be compelled to attend. They attend because they want to recognise the service, and they attend in increasing numbers. I cannot for the life of me imagine why this Government has decided that we should make it compulsory for young people to do something that they have been doing voluntarily in large and increasing numbers over the past few years. Given the general trend and the way that young people talk, they will continue to do so. Why would we as a Parliament want to compel our young people to do something that they have been doing voluntarily and that they want to do?

Mr M. McGowan: Do you want an answer? First, it is not in the legislation but it is an administrative order of the Government. Second, it applies to schools, not individuals, because some schools were not undertaking to do it, although the kids may have wanted to do it, because the principals decided not to do it.

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Mr M.G. HOUSE: That is not an answer; it is an explanation. I accept the parliamentary secretary's right to hold that point of view. I do not think that the provision is necessary. Young people will have their way, they will have their say, and they will demonstrate by their actions that they recognise Anzac Day as being a very important part of our history, in the sense that it recognises the fact that people served to make this a free country. Those people allowed us to have the sort of debates that we are having today and enabled us to disagree about some issues in a civilised and sensible way. The very thing they fought for was to allow us to express differences of opinion. They did it freely. In fact, according to the debates in the federal Parliament on conscription, it caused the then Labor Government to fall. The Labor Party went to the polls with conscription as its main platform and it was defeated. Even at the height of war, people did not want to be compelled to take part, yet here we are as a Parliament compelling young people to recognise those people's service and sacrifice. They do not need to be compelled because they will make the decision themselves.

A government member: What about conscription?

Mr M.G. HOUSE: I hold the same view about that, as one of those people who were in the ballot for conscription for Vietnam.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You do not look old enough.

Mr M.G. HOUSE: I thank the member for the compliment. I cannot say anything horrible to her after that.

I did not agree with conscription then; indeed, plenty of people did not. Those who were conscripted did serve, and the majority served with great distinction. It does not mean that they agreed with it. I do not believe that people in society need to be conscripted to do those sorts of things. I make the point that I think it is unnecessary. The parliamentary secretary will take responsibility for the issues we are debating. One of the clauses in this Bill allocates the responsibility to the Premier. If it is an administrative order, as the parliamentary secretary has said, I hope that the Premier will take notice of what I and others have said and will see fit not to prescribe it as an order but maybe encourage people to take part in the way that has been so successful so far. I support all the other aspects of the Bill. I have some doubt about trying to force people to do that.

MR A.D. McRAE (Riverton) [3.49 pm]: I will be brief. I want to mark the passage of this Bill through the Chamber by recording my thanks to the men and women from my district who have served throughout many conflicts and indeed non-conflicts. They are the regular attendees and supporters of the Returned Services League, which is a vibrant organisation in Riverton. It continues to this day to provide one of the most comprehensive services for returned servicemen and women throughout the district. Its services extend beyond normal friendship, a beer at the bar and a meal on a Friday night. It supplies services for relationships, personal counselling and a number of other services. As the Bill passes through this Chamber and attempts to enshrine in state law the framework for the cultural tradition surrounding Anzac Day, we need to record that those things are being lived out in small urban, rural and regional communities throughout the State. As former members have said, people can travel to every community in the State and see a war memorial of some form. That marks in many ways the origins of that social interaction that is, as I say, being lived out through local Returned and Services League branches.

I also want to pay some compliments to the people who were on the other side of the battlelines at the forging of the Australian identity around Anzac Day. Australia had been an independent country - that is, the six colonies had been unified - for a mere 14 years when the Anzac conflict emerged. Some 89 years later, we see that it was the crucible through which the very essence of what it is to be an Australian was forged. It revolves around mateship, loyalty, bravery and a certain larrikinism. We have already heard that people were propped up, even though they had died a day or two earlier, to ensure that they were in the photographs taken in front of the pyramids when the Anzacs were training in Egypt. That is the kind of spirit that needs to be nurtured and sustained. On the other side of the conflict lines, after the battle had raged for some months, we saw the development of a relationship across those battlelines. There is a story that, when the white flag was raised for the first time by the Anzac troops to negotiate a cease-fire for the collection of the dead and wounded, one of the Turkish soldiers shot it down. This story is recorded at the Australian War Memorial, and it is well documented. That very soldier was made by his superiors to get up out of the Turkish trenches, walk across no-man's-land with his arms spread and apologise for shooting down that white flag. Subsequent to that action, the Turks, Australians, New Zealanders and British were able to negotiate times of cease-fire and, indeed, times when there was interaction between one other - games of cricket and interaction when the enemy became a human being. Something we understand from the Anzac tradition is that those we seek to have as our enemies are human beings and live their lives in hope for their future and their children's future. Sometimes in the horrors of war we see the very essence of great elements of humanity. That was also reflected in the message that Atatürk sent at the end of the war to Australian women in particular. I will paraphrase it thus: "Mothers of Australia, do not

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weep. Your sons lie here in our land, and because they lie here in our land, they are our sons, so do not weep because they are lost and forgotten; they are not.” That message - I did not get it perfectly right, but that is the essence of what Atatürk said - expresses an extreme generosity between cultures and enemies and an understanding of the loss involved in such horrors.

This is what we see emphasised by the participation of young people in our country today in Anzac Day ceremonies. Yes, they are acknowledging the loss and the bravery, but, more than anything, I hear young people talk about the horrors of war and the incredible loss and devastation, not to one side or the other, but to all the people involved. This marks something very Australian as well - a deep respect for all human beings and a capacity to recognise that we might come from different cultures, religions and backgrounds, but we share some very common traits. If, as has been said by previous speakers, Anzac Day in 100 years comes to represent anything, I hope that it comes to represent a declaration of hope for humanity and peaceful relations.

MR W.J. McNEE (Moore) [3.54 pm]: I will make a few comments on this Bill, which I support. Never having had to answer the call of my country, I cannot even begin to imagine the sort of experience it must have been.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler: Were you too old for World War II?

Mr W.J. McNEE: Yes!

Mr M.F. Board: You were going to be nice, too, weren't you?

Mr W.J. McNEE: I was going to be nice. I thought of an answer, but I do not think it is the appropriate time to use it.

As I was saying, I never experienced that demand. The closest I ever got was three months national service training at Swanbourne, and that was a breeze. I am not like the young men I remember who left for the Second World War when I was just a boy. There are families in my district who have had three generations of their families involved in wars - World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. Friends of mine were in the Korean War. Because I was older then, I saw those young men leave; I was there when we farewelled them. Thank God they came back. When I was a kid, I remember going to functions with my parents to farewell these young men, who I thought in those days were quite old. I was quite young then and they were probably 19 or 20 years old. Can members imagine it? Some of them were going about their business establishing their properties in their own way, and they left those properties. Some of them came back to them. I can remember also the sadness in the district when it was reported that their parents got that dreaded telegram informing them that their son, and in some cases their daughter, was not coming home. It was a combined effort by people, because the people who were left at home had to produce food, munitions and all the things that were required to keep the troops at the front-line. Members need to think about the absolute bravery of those people.

I can remember attending a function with my twin boys, who I think were about five or six years old at the time. Like little boys of that age, they loved to look at war books. They had model ships and aeroplanes. It was a bit of a fascination. I met this chap, who came from Gab and Jack Pauley. I knew that Jack had been shot down in the war and I was talking to Jack while my two little boys were there. I said, “Jack, you had an experience or two in the Air Force, didn't you?” He said, “Yes, I was shot down.” My little fellas could not believe it. Their eyes were like saucers; here was this man who had been in the war and had been shot down. He was shot down twice and came back. One of his friends told me that when he was rescued from the water, he said to his rescuers, “You fellas are risking a bit, aren't you, coming out to get me on a night like this?” That is the sort of bravery he displayed. He thought about the fellows who went to rescue him; they would not have thought tuppence about it. I find that sort of bravery difficult to understand.

As I think others have mentioned, the popularity of Anzac Day services has had a reprieve. I have attended the Wongan Hills dawn service every year for a number of years. It is very moving to be there at dawn, not only with the people who saw active service at dawn many times, but also with the growing group of people, young and old, who attend the service to share with them their thoughts and feelings of those moments. I cannot help but be grateful for the freedom they have bestowed on me and this wonderful country. Whether we like it or not, we change Governments in this country with nothing stronger than a pencil. There are no demonstrations or troops at polling booths wanting our registration or anything like that. It is a wonderful country to live in. We can express our views and do many things because we have been given that wonderful thing called freedom. I am very grateful to the people who left this country and defended it. Some came back but some paid the ultimate sacrifice, and I cannot help but be grateful to them and extend my sympathy to their families. They performed an admirable service for us.

I have an anonymous tribute that sums up the situation. It is simple but important and it reads -

It is the soldier, not the reporter,

Mr David Templeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Monty House; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bill McNee; Mr John Bowler; Ms Jaye Radisich

Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus Organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

That sums up the way I feel about this issue. I am very proud of the people who have served on behalf of this nation in whatever theatre of war. I pray to God that, past this point, none of our families will be asked to do that. However, I suppose that is hoping for a euphoric world that cannot exist. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, Madam Deputy Speaker. I support the Bill.

MR J.J.M. BOWLER (Eyre) [4.03 pm]: It would be remiss of me as a goldfields member of Parliament not to contribute to this debate mainly because of the magnificent and historical role people from the goldfields played in our conflicts, particularly World War I and World War II. The armed forces enrolment rate from the goldfields in both those wars was the highest in Australia. It was so high among some towns that it virtually killed the towns. They lost so many of their young men that by the time the end of the wars came, particularly World War I, the towns no longer existed. Early maps of the goldfields show that the populations in those towns declined during World War I and to a lesser extent during World War II. As a proud goldfielder, I have often wondered why so many of our men enlisted. Were they much braver? I put it down to this: we have often referred to the "old prospectors in the old days". However, in the old days they were young prospectors. People who were able to withstand the hazards and harsh life in the goldfields early last century and late the previous century could not have been very old. If I were to walk through the bush in the goldfields at my age, I would struggle. Not many women were in the goldfields because the environment was too harsh. The towns were populated by young men.

When war came, a huge cohort of young men who were adventurous by spirit had already left the safety of their cities and farms to live in the middle of nowhere in search of either wealth or nothing. They had to be special types of people with a flair for gambling. They were risk takers. Books written about the Anzacs nearly always refer to the massive number of enrolments that came from the goldfields. I am sure the member for Kalgoorlie has also found that in his life.

It has been said that the gold rush of more than 100 years ago made Western Australia what it is today. The influx of prospectors transformed the ports of Fremantle and Albany, and later the wheatbelt as many of those diggers filtered back to a normal lifestyle. It is said that in the same way, World War I and our actions in Gallipoli created the Anzac spirit of which we are so proud to be talking about today.

The enrolment trend from the goldfields continued when people were called up to fight in World War II. Once again, I believe that enrolment in some towns in the goldfields was the highest in Australia and proportionately very high throughout the whole region. My father enlisted in the first wave in 1939 and served in Ceylon and the Middle East. Like the member for Stirling, I am very proud of the fact that he enrolled so quickly and was prepared to defend and fight for his country. I am very glad that he returned, otherwise I would not be here today.

There is no doubt that the Anzac spirit that started in World War I and Gallipoli continued in World War II and in Vietnam. It is stronger than ever in the goldfields. The attendance at the dawn services in Kalgoorlie, Boulder and the smaller towns has mushroomed in recent years, as it has in much of Australia. I believe the spirit of Anzac is epitomised by a person called George "Rip" Hayhow. George is about five foot three inches in his stockings.

Mr M.J. Birney: I do not think he would take too kindly to you saying he wears stockings!

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: In his socks! He served in World War II and has been the backbone of the Returned Services League in the goldfields now for as long as I can remember. Just prior to Anzac Day I attended a dinner that George had organised. It was a wonderful, sit-down dinner for 50 or 60 of the town's leaders. At the age of either 90 or 91, he was the driving force behind it. George "Rip" Hayhow epitomises what Anzac is all about, and where we have come to and come from.

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I suppose the future lies in the hands of people like my five sons. I hope they never have to do what my father did. I did not have to do it. I was lucky my number was not pulled out of the barrel during the National Service call-up to fight the Vietnam War. I hope that we keep alive the spirit of Anzac that has developed over the past century, even if my sons are not called upon to serve

MS J.A. RADISICH (Swan Hills) [4.10 pm]: I support the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2004. The Bill makes a number of improvements that are needed because of the outdated nature of the Act, in particular specifying the reason that we acknowledge and celebrate Anzac Day and the important role that it plays in our history. I consider myself to be a promoter of peace. However, I believe it is important to recognise the people who have paid the ultimate price of giving their lives for this country so that the rest of us can enjoy the great lifestyle and benefits of living in Western Australia and Australia. The people who even today, as well as in past wars, enrol in the armed forces are certainly very courageous individuals - far more courageous than I. It is important to note that, as stated in the Bill, Anzac Day is not simply a public holiday. I think that is well recognised by both young and old people throughout Western Australia today, and particularly young people, who are, as has been mentioned, attending Anzac Day services in droves. Anzac Day is not just a public holiday. It is a spirit. When I was doing my research for the Anzac Day speech that I delivered at Mundaring on Anzac Day this year, I came across a chat room on ABC Online on which last year young people were discussing the meaning and point of Anzac Day and its relevance in our modern society. One person had posted on that web site the comment that Anzac Day is possibly even more important than Australia Day and possibly has more meaning to people today because it is a spirit. As I mentioned in my inaugural speech in this Parliament, it is a spirit about never giving up and striving for excellence in the face of adversity. That is certainly what the Anzacs did at Gallipoli and what I am sure many of us try to do on a daily basis.

I now want to reflect upon the efforts put in by the many people in my community who work to organise the Anzac Day services that we attend. I will start with the early morning service at Ellenbrook at about 5.45 am - definitely one of my earliest days of the year! Rosemary and Brian Dillon put a great deal of effort into organising that event, together with the rest of the members from the Ellenbrook Returned and Services League sub-branch. They also involve a lot of other community organisations to make the morning such a success, including the cadets and the Ellenbrook youth performance group. This year, and I think also last year, if my memory serves me correctly, the Ellenbrook youth performance group performed one of my favourite songs - *I Am, You Are, We Are Australian*. That is a really touching song and one that I always enjoy singing along to. In fact, when I was at an international conference overseas in 2000 with a couple of other Aussies, we really got into our patriotism, and that was a song that we frequently sang and tried to teach to the many young people at that conference. I always enjoy going to the Ellenbrook service. This year the weather was much warmer than usual, because it is usually a bit chilly at that time of the year, so it was a particularly lovely service. I commend the Ellenbrook RSL for its efforts. I also acknowledge the efforts of the Eastern Hills Returned and Services League, in particular Ron Scott, who always puts so much effort into making the event at Mundaring so fantastic. The event involves a march along Great Eastern Highway from the shire offices to the memorial site, and a terrific service. I was privileged to give the speech at that event this year. It was a beautiful day. There was definitely a sense of community spirit at the Mundaring service. It was a chance for people to catch up and meet with their neighbours at a communal meeting place and have a really relaxing public holiday, and to reflect on exactly what the efforts of the Anzacs mean for us in the long term. Many other groups complemented the efforts of the RSL at the event, including the scouts, youth groups and representatives from Eastern Hills Senior High School. A wonderful reading was delivered by the Mundaring citizen of the year, Brian Marshall, which was also very enjoyable.

The third event that I attended was in Bellevue. Although Bellevue is not in my electorate but is in Midland, I always find the event so enjoyable that I like to go to it. The member for Midland, Michelle Roberts, and I both attended on this occasion, together with the federal member for Hasluck, Sharryn Jackson. Gary Sutherland and Arthur Elder help to make that event a tremendous one. This year a very well respected member of the community, Mr Bill Gaynor, delivered a very interesting speech. I thank him for his ongoing efforts in a range of pursuits throughout the area. At the event in Bellevue a particularly special presentation was made by Michelle Roberts and representatives of the Bellevue RSL to a very special member, Mr Edward Day, to honour him for his 50 years of continuous membership of the Bellevue RSL. That is a tremendous achievement, and many of us could aspire to having that longevity of membership to our various organisations.

The Bullsbrook community is facing a bit of a challenge at the moment because there is not a formal war memorial in the area, and that is something that the community would like to have. John Pronk is working on that issue, and hopefully we will be able to progress the matter so that Bullsbrook gets a memorial of its own. The member for Wagin mentioned earlier that even his small home town of Jingalup has a war memorial. It would be terrific if we could achieve a good war memorial for Bullsbrook, particularly given that the Royal Australian Air Force base Pearce is in Bullsbrook. There is a great deal of interaction between the RAAF base

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and the general community in that area. In fact, the base sends a representative to the school Anzac Day service, which is held at Bullsbrook District High School. There is certainly a good level of interaction between the RAAF base and other organisations in the area.

I commend the Premier and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for their initiative in creating the war memorial restoration grants. That is an excellent idea and a great way for both younger and older people to work together in communities to keep alive the Anzac spirit, as we might say. I know that in my electorate some interest has been demonstrated in this initiative, and hopefully we will be able to secure some funding to ensure the ongoing repair and maintenance of the war memorials in our area.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr R.C. Kucera (Minister for Tourism).

[Continued below .]