

BALLAJURA WAR MEMORIAL AND PEACE PARK

Statement by Member for Ballajura

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [12.53 pm]: I am happy to defer to my cousin, the member for Bunbury!

The Ballajura War Memorial and Peace Park was opened on 3 May 2006 by the Premier, Hon Alan Carpenter. It is located at Ballajura Community College and is for the benefit of the whole community. The park is a joint project between the local, state and federal governments, the Returned and Services League of Australia, Lotterywest, private donors and community organisations. The state government contributed \$150 000. The total cost is in the vicinity of \$700 000.

The war memorial is a magnificent granite sphere 1.2 metres in diameter. It rests on a granite base and revolves by way of water pressure from the base. Rammed earth panels form a backdrop to the memorial. The clay used on the panels comes from the different regions of Western Australia and reflects the wonderful earth colours of Western Australia. The peace park includes a lone pine from Gallipoli, an olive grove and a terraced assembly area. The finished product is a credit to all concerned.

The initial idea for the memorial evolved during discussions between me, the principal of the college, Dr Steffan Silcox, and the president of the RSL, Bill Gaynor, at an Anzac Day memorial ceremony that was attended by some 2 000 students. Dr Silcox and the students of the college had significant input into the project and their request for a place of peace and reflection resulted in the peace park. Students and members of the wider community can visit the park to reflect on the lives of the brave soldiers who fell during the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. The project took two years to come to fruition. The students and staff at the school have been particularly involved in this project and, as such, have taken ownership of the park. They feel a sense of pride and responsibility, as does the wider community.

I offer my sincere appreciation to all on the working group, especially Dr Steffan Silcox. Without his drive and enthusiasm this project would not have succeeded. I thank all the community organisations for their support. The Ballajura War Memorial and Peace Park will be a reminder to our community of the sacrifices made for our freedom.