

DARLING RANGE SPORTS COLLEGE — ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield) [12.53 pm]: On 21 March 2014 I attended the Darling Range Sports College Anzac commemorative service, which this year celebrated the centenary of the western front. Long-time supporter of the school, Mr John Davies, arranged for representatives from Belgium to visit Perth and spend time at the college. The Belgium contingent included the chairman of the Last Post Association, two of the buglers from Menin Gate, and a member of the Belgian War Graves Service. The renowned Menin Gate buglers sounded the Last Post at two special Anzac commemorative ceremonies. The first was held at the sports college's Anzac service and the second at a joint Anzac commemorative service, which was held at Yarloop in the state's south west in partnership with the town and the Shire of Harvey.

Students from Darling Range again visited the western front in 2014 after a group of students, accompanied by three staff members and several community members, toured the region in 2013. The tour culminated in the dawn service at Villers Bretonneux in France. The students also visited the Menin Gate and observed the service that has occurred there daily since the 1920s. This service honours soldiers missing in action.

In providing its students opportunities such as these, Darling Range Sports College should be commended for fostering an interest in Australia's history and providing context to the events that have shaped the Australian identity. In speaking with the students, one can sense their passion for this subject as well as their eagerness to learn about the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for Australia. In fact, I witnessed this across Forrestfield in the Anzac services I attended. I believe the Anzac legacy is secure as the future generations of Western Australians I have encountered are taking it upon themselves to keep their memory, their spirit and the significance of their actions alive.