

Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Terry Healy; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Stephen Price;
Mr Bill Marmion; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Mr Mark Folkard; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr David
Templeman; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Donald Punch; Mr Peter
Rundle; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr Kevin Michel; Mr Dave Kelly

ARMISTICE CENTENARY

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Statement by Member for Dawesville

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [2.51 pm]: Following on from the contributions of opposition and government members in this place, I also would like to recognise the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. A distance of 13 063 kilometres away from the Western Australian Parliament stands the Latin Bridge in Sarajevo. As we know, it was the northern end of that bridge where, on 28 June 1914, a rogue terrorist assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and Sophie, the Duchess of Hohenburg. Their deaths would lead to a declaration of the Great War one month later. This war would change the course of our nation's history and of western civilisation forever. As someone interested in military history, I am fascinated most by World War I. It was a war that tore apart old empires, started new nations, thrust civilisation into the twentieth century and cost the lives of millions across the globe. It was a war that started with felt hats, cavalry and mass infantry marching with bayonets and ended with highly mechanised warfare, tanks, chemicals, aircraft and the most rapid technological change in human history. World War I in my mind was a channel of human history from old to new that would form the basis for much change that we take for granted today.

All this, as we know and mark today, came at a great cost. Millions of people died in this war. More than 60 000 men from Australia were killed, and more than 156 000 were wounded. From our child nation, with a population of fewer than five million people, more than 416 000 men enlisted to take up the fight on behalf of the commonwealth against those central powers. In the first general European war since the Battle of Waterloo, nearly 100 years prior, Australia was called up and made a significant sacrifice in its early years to defend king and country. There are many stories of heroism, of the forming of our national identity and of the Anzac spirit as a result of the First World War. It is a distinction that has been with us ever since.

There are men and women who gave much, both overseas and at home. According to the Australian War Memorial's project database, one man from Falcon and 10 men from Mandurah enlisted in the war. While these men went on to fight on the other side of the globe, exceptional efforts were made by a number of residents in Mandurah who stayed behind but still gave much. In particular, there is a park in my electorate named after Robert and Dorothy Dalrymple called Dalrymple Park. They were the headmaster and sewing mistress of the first school established in Mandurah. Together with the schoolchildren, they made remarkable financial contributions to those affected by war. This is the type of community spirit that is not uncommon, especially in Mandurah, these days.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the Mandurah and Dawesville RSL sub-branches, which do much to support and recognise local veterans, both past and present, who have served. In particular, I would like to recognise Mandurah RSL president, Brian Dillon; Dawesville RSL president, Bill Bryden; and vice president, Bart Mavrick, for their continued leadership of this important organisation at a local level in Mandurah.

I visited the ladies of the Dawesville RSL on 8 September, who spent a significant amount of time contributing to the 62 000 handmade poppies that many members are wearing today and can be found at Kings Park and on the front steps of Parliament. This Remembrance Day, I will be honoured to be joining members of the Dawesville RSL in unveiling a plaque at the Dawesville War Memorial in commemoration of the end of the First World War and recognising the men and women of Australia who made the ultimate sacrifice. The plaque will read "Our freedom came at a high price". It will serve as a local reminder for generations to come that the peace we enjoy today should not be taken for granted, for it cost our nation dearly.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River) [2.54 pm]: I also would like to make a contribution. I rise in respect of the hundreds of men and women from Gosnells and Southern River who have lost their lives and who have served our nation in World War I and in conflict since. I also acknowledge the centenary of the Armistice on this Sunday. I would like to quote an article from *The Daily News* of 26 February 1917 —

On Saturday afternoon in the Roads Board Hall, Maddington, an honor roll, erected to the memory of the men who have enlisted for the front from the Gosnells district, was unveiled by the Premier ... The hall was filled to overflowing when —

The Premier —

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praised the splendid response given by the men of the district to the call of the nation. The number of names inscribed on the roll totalled approximately 200, which —

The Premier —

said, was almost a State record.

I proudly wear a purple poppy today in acknowledgement of the animals that died in conflict. This Sunday at our Gosnells remembrance service, I will be wearing a red poppy in remembrance of the soldiers—men and women—who lost their lives. Again, I acknowledge all those who have served, all those who have given their lives and also those who have returned with physical and mental burdens. I also want to acknowledge our RSL locally, which guides the memory of all of us of those we have lost locally.

I would like to thank the Gosnells and Kenwick RSL for erecting on their wall of remembrance a plaque to my grandfather, Private Robert McGregor, who served in the 2nd/12th Field Ambulance unit as a stretcher bearer during World War II. I would like to acknowledge my father, Terry Healy, a full private during the Vietnam War in the 2nd transport platoon, 5th company, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, who served between 1967 and 1968. My father played a very significant role in the founding of the WA Vietnam Memorial in Kings Park. I would also like to acknowledge in Kings Park the poppy ladies, who have brought together well over 60 000 handmade poppies. I would like to acknowledge my old Venturer leader, Sue Bouwmeester, who is one of the leading poppy ladies. As a young person, through Scouts, Sue took me to local war memorials for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and has done so very well with many scouts and young people. I acknowledge her comrades Judy Welch, Enid Schoonraad, Katie Dunkley and Wendy Moss, who have led the hundreds of people from Western Australia who have handmade those poppies over the course of this year, including people from my community of Gosnells and Southern River. It is important to remember that each of those poppies represents a person we have lost. To all those who serve and have served, we say thank you.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Vasse

MS L. METTAM (Vasse) [2.57 pm]: The Busselton War Memorial has 180 World War I names remembered with honour. Of those named, 27 were killed in action and a further 10 died of their wounds or disease in Gallipoli and the Western Front.

I would like to use the limited time I have to acknowledge two notable men from Busselton who enlisted and are remembered with honour on the Busselton War Memorial. Private Alfred Fordham Savage was the first man in Busselton to enlist in the Army after Australia entered World War I. Among the first ashore at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 was the WA-raised 11th Battalion and within those ranks was Private Alfred Fordham Savage. Alfred Savage was born in Busselton in 1894 within a settler family. His father was James Savage and his mother, Hannah. After schooling, Alfred worked as a sleeper hewer at Kirup and answered the call to arms, after war was declared, and was first through the doors at the Busselton enlistment depot on 1 September 1914. He was given service number 481 when he joined other recruits from throughout the state at Blackboy Hill in Greenmount, near Perth. After surviving the horrors of Gallipoli and attaining the rank of sergeant, he went on to serve on the Western Front and was tragically killed in action on 10 August 1918. Alfred Savage is buried at Heath Cemetery, Somme, France.

William Henry Francis Willmott was born on 16 May 1895 at the family property “Reinscourt” in Busselton. He was the eldest son of William and Margaret Willmott. On 5 April 1916, at the age of 21, Henry enlisted as a serviceman. He had been working as a farmer at the family property “Basildene” in Margaret River. He was sent for training to No 58 depot at Blackboy Hill Camp in Perth on 10 April 1916 and was assigned service number 6355. He was a private with the 16th Battalion and was later transferred to the 32nd Battalion. After several months of deployment to various frontline and reserve locations, Henry went to the 2nd Army rest camp at Ambletuse in France for two weeks. After a brief rest, his unit was deployed to Poperinge and then to the front line near Polygon Wood in Belgium, where they were subjected to heavy bombardment from the Germans. They were eventually relieved and pulled back some miles from the front.

On 8 October 1917, Henry was on the front line again at Ypres carrying duckboards to the front. The next day, the 32nd Battalion moved to the front line at Zonnebeke, opposite Celtic Wood, where they relieved the 10th Battalion and were subjected to continual heavy enemy artillery fire. On Friday, 12 October, Henry suffered severe gunshot wounds to his right leg, left foot and right forearm. His records state “gunshot wounds” but his injuries may well have been caused by shell blast, considering his unit was still being subjected to continual heavy artillery bombardment. After admittance to the general field hospital in Étapes, Henry was evacuated to England aboard the HMHS *St Patrick*

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on 22 October 1917. Henry's right leg was amputated the following day at the 3rd Western Hospital in Cardiff, and he was transferred to a hospital in Southall, England, where his artificial leg was fitted. This never hampered Henry. After arriving home, he went back to farming and was able to ride a horse without any sort of impediment. After being discharged, Henry returned to the farm property "Sandilands" in Busselton, which he managed for his aunt until his death in 1947. His artificial limb continued to cause considerable pain but he decided he would enter politics and became the MLA for Sussex—now Vasse—from 1938 to 1947 until his passing on 2 May 1947.

The Willmott family has a war diary that Henry kept and it is very poignant as it shows the incredible horrors that men faced on the Western Front.

On behalf of the Vasse electorate, I would like to extend my gratitude to those who have borne the physical and psychological wounds of war, and for their service to our nation. I also extend my gratitude to the families of those who loved and supported them.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [3.02 pm]: I rise today to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice, marking 100 years since the end of the First World War. Over 32 000 Australian men enlisted to serve between 1914 and 1918—almost 20 per cent of the nation's male population. Over 3 000 women served as nurses and many thousands more supported the war effort at home. Australia's participation in the war came at a high cost. Thousands of lives were lost and the emotional, psychological and physical pain experienced by those who served during the Great War lingered in our communities for decades. It remains our most costly conflict.

I express my community's deepest gratitude for the sacrifices made by those brave men and women, and indeed for those who have served our nation in all conflicts and operational theatres, and particularly those from Swan Hills. I represent one of the few electorates in WA that is home to a large community of active Defence Force personnel, mainly stationed at RAAF Base Pearce in Bullsbrook. I take this opportunity to also thank those men and women for their current service.

I would also like to acknowledge and give sincere thanks to those returned service personnel who continue to contribute to our community. The Swan Hills RSL sub-branches provide incredible assistance and camaraderie to our returned service personnel and their families. Their commemorative services bring us together in remembrance, reinforcing civic virtues and allowing us to express our shared gratitude. They deliver various forms of assistance to veterans and provide important opportunities for friendship and support.

Earlier this year I was privileged to give the Anzac address at the Bullsbrook RSL and was moved by the incredible attendance at that event. This year, the Ellenbrook RSL's Anzac service also attracted well over 5 000 attendees. I understand that branch is the state's second largest.

In 2017, the Chidlow District RSL sub-branch was formed to commemorate that community's rich military history, stretching back to the First World War. I was honoured this year to plant a tree at the Chidlow War Memorial, along an avenue of other trees planted over the decades, in memory of the town's fallen.

I would particularly like to acknowledge one Swan Hills constituent for his service to community, and that is Nanda Warrant Officer Class 2 Frank Mallard, who I believe embodies the Anzac spirit and epitomises service. Mr Mallard's extraordinary contribution to our nation and local community was recently acknowledged when he was named WA's 2019 Senior Australian of the Year. He has previously been awarded the City of Swan's Citizen and Senior Citizen of the Year. Frank is a proud Yamatji elder and is also a member of the stolen generation. He served in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam as a sapper in the field engineers before serving with NATO in Croatia as a logistics officer. On leaving the military, Frank continued a career of service as a prison officer. Despite his post-traumatic stress disorder and Parkinson's disease, Frank is an incredibly active member of the Ellenbrook RSL. He has a deep and abiding commitment to current and former service men and women. Each year he organises veterans' health week events and a range of other occasions to recognise our service personnel.

Frank has an astonishing civilian voluntary career. He worked with Amurri Divine Mercy Hospital Foundation to establish a hospital in Nigeria. He actively volunteers with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Association of WA and chairs the Catholic Church's Voice of the Voiceless Ministry of Saint John Paul II. Frank Mallard exemplifies the Anzac spirit that first entered the Australian consciousness 100 years ago. He is selfless, stoic and resourceful. He never seeks recognition and he has devoted his life to the service of others. I thank Frank for his remarkable contribution to the nation and our local community.

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On the commemoration of such a significant event in our nation's history, I also remember the sacrifices of so many other thousands of Australian service men and women. They gave so much in order that we might continue to live in peace and prosperity. We are eternally indebted.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Darling Range

MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range) [3.07 pm]: On Sunday, 11 November 2018, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War. One hundred years ago, on 11 November 1918, silence fell across the Western Front after a long four-year battle. An armistice was signed resulting in the end of the First World War. Exhausted Australians, including Western Australians, could finally stand down. It is well known that the fighting reputation of our men and women far outweighed any other in proportion to numbers. Sadly, this victory came at a heavy cost to our country. Communities and families in homes across Australia lost loved ones. More than 60 000 people never returned home. That grief is something that I do not believe we could ever come close to appreciating. It is because of this sacrifice and loss that we stand each year to stop, remember and honour the bravery and commitment made by so many to allow us to enjoy our way of life.

When remembering, we also acknowledge the men and women who served our country and those who are still serving and protecting us today. Many of us here today have personal family connections. Growing up, this was often discussed. We talked about the impacts on so many families, not just those we had lost but also the ones who returned so different from how they left. Unlike some of our experiences, there were families that did not have their stories told. Today I wish to thank my good friend Anna Wyatt for sharing with me the stories shared in the book titled *They Served With Honour: Untold Stories of Western Australian Aboriginal Servicemen at Gallipoli*. In 2015, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal history research unit compiled the stories of 13 Western Australian Aboriginal servicemen. Their life stories have been shared within this book. Stories that have never been told or have been untold for so long have now been acknowledged. I wish to thank them and their families for their sense of duty and their sacrifice and for sharing their stories with us.

This Sunday, hundreds of outstanding volunteers at RSLs around our state will hold services across our communities. I would like to thank and acknowledge all those involved in planning and developing the many services and events that honour our service men and women. Attending these services, along with the Anzac Day services, is always an honour I look forward to. This Sunday, I will proudly join the Serpentine–Jarrahdale RSL to remember, acknowledge and thank them and to honour their spirit.

I close by quoting —

We remember the soldiers, who fought and died.
And all their mates fighting by their side.
We thank the soldiers who kept us alive,
And the times in war they had to survive,
We will always remember the men,
Who gave their life to defend.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield) [3.10 pm]: On Sunday, we commemorate the Centenary of Armistice, marking 100 years since the end of the First World War—the Great War; the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, sadly, as we know, this is not true. In 1914, there were over 179 000 men living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War. More than 6 000 of these men were killed and thousands more were wounded and suffered from disease and illness. According to the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society and the Kalamunda RSL—I thank both organisations for their assistance and for continuing to ensure that our history is remembered and not forgotten—on the Kalamunda and districts honour board it is noted that 120 people enlisted in World War I, on the Maida Vale honour board it is noted that 18 people enlisted in World War I and on the Wattle Grove honour board it is noted that 21 people enlisted in World War I. Sadly, 21 people from the Shire of Kalamunda did not return home after World War I. On Sunday, I will attend the Kalamunda RSL Remembrance Day ceremony at the Kalamunda memorial. I thank the Kalamunda RSL for all the great work it does.

On their return, thousands of men carried the visible scars of the war; many others carried unseen mental wounds that darkened their lives and those of their families. Still today, after experiencing service around the world, many

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of our returned service men and women come home with these same issues, and we need to ensure that we continue to support them as best we can.

Fortunately, the Armistice was signed at 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, ceasing all fighting, and soldiers on both sides of the Western Front laid down their arms.

Today I would also like to acknowledge, as others have done, the many Indigenous soldiers who served in the First World War. One hundred and thirty-three Aboriginal men from Western Australia volunteered, with 83 of them serving overseas. I would also like to acknowledge the more than 3 000 women who played a role and served in World War I.

In 2015 I was fortunate enough to travel to the Western Front with a group of Darling Range Sports College students and other mentors on the Senator Glenn Sterle Western Front tour. On this tour, we attended many of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial sites and other battle sites along the Western Front. This included visiting Villers-Bretonneux and Tyne Cot, where 12 000 people are buried. We went to the Bayernwald trenches, which is a set of original German trenches from the Western Front from 1916 that have been preserved and restored. People can walk around in these trenches and get a pretty good feeling of what it must have been like at the time. We also went to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele. We went to the battlefield that is now referred to as Flanders Field. We went to Hill 60 and Caterpillar crater. Members may or may not know about those particular areas, but a lot of Australian tunnellers were involved in that part of the war. The tour culminated in a dawn service on Anzac Day at Polygon Wood Cemetery in Belgium, as the Premier alluded to earlier, which was an incredible experience. We also had the privilege of attending and laying a wreath at one of the *Last Post* ceremonies that are held at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres. Members may or may not know this, but every night since the Menin Gate Memorial was built, a *Last Post* ceremony has been held. This is to honour all the men and women from the British, commonwealth and ANZAC forces who died in the defence of Ypres. Of the battles that took place at the Western Front, I think about five battles occurred at Ypres. The *Last Post* has been played every day at the Menin Gate Memorial since its establishment and on 9 July 2015, they played the *Last Post* for the 30 000th time. It has been played every day since and it continues to be played. It is played by the world famous buglers from the Last Post Association, which comprises a group of volunteers who turn up every day to play.

I want to finish by saying that we need to ensure that we continue to pay appropriate recognition to those who defended our rights and way of life and that, by doing so, it is not glorifying war but is remembering the cost of war, and this is remembering those who died before us.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Nedlands

MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands) [3.16 pm]: I also rise to acknowledge all those people who lost their lives in the wars, particularly World War I and World War II. Indeed, the Assembly has an honour board in the Speaker's gallery that lists all the members of Parliament who have served in wars and who are deceased.

A member: They're not all deceased.

Mr W.R. MARMION: Sorry—some are still alive.

I want to acknowledge three who served in both World War I and World War II. Because the member for Bunbury is here, I will start with James Murray, who was the member for Bunbury. He served in both World War I and World War II. Edwin Wilkie Corboy, the member for Yilgarn and then the member for Yilgarn–Coolgardie, served in both World War I and World War II. Arthur Valentine Rutherford Abbott, who was mentioned by the member for Moore, was the member for North Perth and then the member for Mount Lawley and served in both World War I and World War II. Arthur Valentine Abbott was a well-known lawyer. He married my great-aunt Daphne Marmion. In fact, I did not know that I was related to Val Abbott until I became a member of Parliament, because Val Abbott and my great-aunt Daphne separated when their only son was quite young. I wondered why my cousin David Abbott was called Abbott and I found out when I became a member of Parliament that his father was Val Abbott. He is in my family tree and got through the war. Another member of my family, Colin Crammond, unfortunately enlisted in World War I at the age of 36 and got killed at the Nek at Gallipoli. He was unmarried. I spoke to a member of the family earlier today who said that, on Colin's death, his sister received two handkerchiefs and his pipe. They were the only three things that he brought back from the war. That obviously had a fairly large impact on that side of the family.

Another great-aunt was engaged to a very outstanding young man who, unfortunately, did not come back from the First World War. He was also killed at Gallipoli. A bit has been written about this particular person. He was engaged to my great-aunt Molly Marmion. A gentlemen by the name of Ross McMullin has written a book titled

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Farewell, dear people: Biographies of Australia's lost generation. I will refer to some of that book's text published in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 10 November 2012. This is a story about Alexander Phipps Turnbull. In 1906, he attended what later became known as Hale School. He came first in Latin, Greek, French and English, and was captain of the school and its dux. He became the state's fourth Rhodes scholar. Having law in mind as a career, he opted to specialise in jurisprudence at Oxford University and continued to record exceptional results. In 1910, final honours in jurisprudence at Oxford University were awarded to 60 students, with only three students getting first-class honours—he was one of them. His future was going to be back here in Western Australia at a firm called Parker & Parker. People might have heard of it but it does not exist anymore. It used to be one of Perth's big law firms in those days. Alexander was engaged to my great aunt, Mollie Marmion. Unfortunately, he did not return from the war. Without going through his whole career, he was in the third group of soldiers who had to come out of the trenches, knowing that they were going to die. His fiancée, my great aunt, lived to the age of 93 and never married. The war impacted many people and we should recognise all those people who suffered in both wars.

Statement by Member for Maylands

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands — Deputy Speaker) [3.21 pm]: Lest we forget.

Over 60 million animals served in the First World War. Of the 400 000 horses that left Australian shores, only one came home. Australian troops were sent 160 000 Walers, of which 121 324 went to Africa, Europe, India and Palestine. When peace was declared on Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, the Australian Light Horsemen were shocked to learn that their faithful companions were not coming home. Very distressing stories came back of men who were forced to shoot their friends and dependants rather than leave them to die alone, and 3 000 horses were destroyed. Animals generally endured worse conditions than the soldiers, often being exposed to the elements with inadequate shelter. Like their carers, animals were subjected to artillery fire and gas attacks. Gas masks for dogs and horses were not developed until a long way into the war. It has been estimated that eight million horses and one million dogs died during the First World War. In November 2004, the Animals in War Memorial was unveiled in London's Hyde Park. This monument is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time. Those animals had no choice. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra also has a monument acknowledging the contribution of animals in wartime.

Trapped behind enemy lines during the war with fewer than 200 men still alive, three messengers were sent out on a perilous last-ditch mission to let headquarters know their position—it was their only hope. Two were killed at once and the third was also hit. Blinded in one eye and with a chest wound and one damaged leg, the determined courier struggled a further 25 miles to deliver the message before collapsing. The bombardment ceased and 194 men from what became known as the United States' Army's "Lost Battalion" were rescued. The messenger was not a soldier but a female carrier pigeon called Cher Ami. She survived her battle wounds from October 1918 and she even had a wooden leg carved for her. She was awarded the French Croix de Guerre medal for bravery. Cher Ami was one of 100 000 homing pigeons that carried messages to and from the trenches from 1914 to 1918. Where other methods failed, pigeons had a success rate of 95 per cent and save hundreds of lives.

Rags, an abandoned, stray French bull terrier, adopted by the US infantry division, was gassed, shelled and partially blinded, but he survived the war. This was partly because he could hear the shells coming before the soldiers, so he was an early warning system too. Many members will recognise the story of Warrior because it has been immortalised in the play and film titled, *War Horse*. Warrior, ridden by General Jack Seely, survived massive casualties at the battles of Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele and lived until 1941. Warrior arrived at the Western Front with General Seely on 11 August 1914 and stayed throughout the war surviving machine gun attacks and falling shells at the Battle of the Somme. He was dug out of the mud at Passchendaele and twice trapped under burning beams, surviving many charges at the enemy and proving an inspiration to soldiers he was fighting with. His newspaper obituary stated —

“The horse served continuously on the Western Front till Christmas Day 1918 ... I have seen him, even when a shell has burst within a few feet, stand still without a tremor—just turn his head and, unconcerned, look at the smoke of the burst.”

Despite suffering several injuries, he survived and returned home to the Isle of Wight where he lived with the Seely family until his death at the respectable age of 33. He was awarded the Dickin Medal, which has been awarded 66 times to animals—32 to pigeons, 27 to dogs, three to horses and one to a cat. I wish I had time to go through the stories of some of the other animals that are recognised by the Dickin Medal. The Dickin Medal states, “For Gallantry: We also serve”. The purple poppy, which I and some of my colleagues are wearing today, is in recognition of the animals that died during war.

Lest we forget.

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Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot) [3.26 pm]: I am privileged and honoured to say a few words and to show my respect. One hundred years ago on Sunday, an armistice caused all fighting to cease and allowed soldiers on both sides of the Western Front in the First World War to lay down their arms. The significance of the centenary for Australians and Western Australians cannot be understated, given the distressing cost of war to thousands of families whose loved ones were killed, and thousands more who went on to live with devastating physical and mental wounds.

In 1914, more than 179 000 men were living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War. At the time, that was almost one out of every five men who enlisted to fight for their country. More than 6 000 of these men were killed. Thousands more were wounded and suffered from diseases and illnesses. The Treeby family was one such family that could not escape the horrors of war. The Treeby's were a pioneer family headed by Joseph and Emma Treeby who, in the late 1890s, moved from South Australia to Western Australia or, more specifically, the Jandakot agricultural area. This part of the sandy, food-growing land was later named Banjup in the early 1900s. The Treeby family took up a block with the help of their three sons, Ernest, Harold and Fred, and had soon cleared enough land to start a vegetable garden. The whole family, including Emma and the Treeby daughters, worked at the market gardens seven days a week. When the time came, all three Treeby sons dutifully enlisted for war, as well as one grandson. Sadly, Fred was killed in action and Harold was wounded. The service of the Treeby sons as well as 11 other local men is commemorated in the Banjup Memorial Park, which was established in 1920 as an avenue of 14 trees and now displays a memorial plaque. Of the 14 Banjup men who served in the war, six were killed in action, four were wounded and the remaining four returned to Australia. The Banjup memorial has the unfortunate honour of recording the highest number of men killed in action and wounded on a percentage basis of any war memorial in Western Australia. During my time as a local government councillor for the City of Cockburn, we excised an old sand mining area in the suburb of Banjup to create a new suburb, which of course needed a new name. I had the privilege of being part of the decision to name the new suburb Treeby, in honour of the family's services.

I want to talk today about another important aspect of the services in the Great War that is close to my heart. Australian and Indian militaries have a long history of shared sacrifice, from Gallipoli to Tobruk. Up to 15 000 Indian soldiers were involved at Gallipoli. The Indian military were all professional soldiers, as opposed to the Anzacs, who were volunteers, so they really were critical in fighting efforts. An amazing bond was formed on the battlefield between the Australian and Indian soldiers, which can best be summarised in the words of Captain Frank Coen of the 18th Battalion —

'They are magnificent and are doing wonderful work here,' he wrote. 'I am bursting with admiration for these dusky friends of ours. I have seen many instances of their devotion to duty, their self-sacrifice. God bless them. Their hearts are as big as the land they come from.'

One unique soldier was an Indian Anzac, Private Nain Singh Sailani. Despite being of Indian heritage, Sailani was not a soldier in the Indian regiment, but rather a private in the Australian Imperial Force. At a very moving ceremony last year, we paid tribute to the centenary of his passing. His service is worth mentioning here today. Sailani was not part of an Indian force fighting side by side with Australians in the First World War, but an Australian soldier, so he would have been an ultimate link between the two forces.

It is fitting on the final sitting day before Remembrance Day to commemorate all our defence force personnel. I pay special tribute to the soldiers and nurses who served in the First World War and to the many who never returned. We recognise how their sacrifices shaped the freedom we are able to enjoy today.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Burns Beach

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [3.31 pm]: Lest we forget those brave who gave their lives so we could live ours—that is actually the full statement of lest we forget. Let us think about that statement—for those brave who gave their lives so we could live ours. In the remembrance of Armistice Day, we must not forget that in 1914, 32 000 men enlisted from Western Australia. In total, 330 000 men enlisted from Australia and saw service overseas, of whom 61 514 never returned. More than 20 000 do not have graves. They do not have a place. They do not have a grave for a poppy or a headstone for a flag—they are just a memory. For my family, this means a lot. My father saw service in Vietnam with the Special Air Service. My brother saw service in East Timor and Afghanistan with the 2nd Commando Regiment. I have another brother who is a corporal in the Army currently,

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and I have another brother who served in the Navy. My own service was in East Timor during the troubles. My family knows what service is, and in time we will find what the price for that service will be.

My family also has strong links to the First World War, as we have a relative who did not come home. Further to that, he has no grave. He is now only a name on the wall of remembrance. We must remember, now that all the veterans from that conflict have gone. Whose role is it to remember? I say it is for all of us, not by words but by deeds. From our children at their schools to current veterans, the Returned and Services League of Australia and our community at large, we cannot forget.

I will tell the house about Sergeant Thomas William Folkard, MM. We know that he enlisted in Queensland. We know that he was married. We know he was a member of the 52nd Battalion and was shot and wounded at Messines. That name may not mean much, but members will have all seen the movie *Beneath Hill 60*. The member for Forrestfield discussed that battle scene, as he has been there. Thomas received wounds from that battle after the detonating of a mine. Thomas recovered from his wounds and returned to his unit prior to the battle of Villers-Bretonneux. We know a bit about him. He was a bit of a larrikin, as he was demoted to corporal at least once before returning to the rank of sergeant prior to the battle of Villers-Bretonneux. The 13th Brigade, which comprised four battalions including the 52nd, was by this stage a battle-hardened infantry unit that had seen the worst of the fighting on the Western Front. We know about that. On 29 March 1918, the Germans broke through the lines and were closing in on a small village known as Villers-Bretonneux. To stop the breach, four Australian infantry battalions were sent to stop the advance. They faced 13 German tanks for the first time and at least a division of troops who were spearheading the advance. That night, the Australians attacked and took back Villers-Bretonneux and stopped the advance. I can only imagine the fixed bayonets under the light of the artillery fire and the horror the men faced. I believe that this was possibly the first time the German advance was stopped in the war. The Germans would attack again with mustard gas and more tanks later on. I can only visualise how someone would survive that horror. Thomas survived the second attack, but on 11 April, he and others went into no-man's-land. According to my notes, his citation reads —

For gallantry ... on the 11th April 1917 near REINCOURT after the withdrawal from the HINDENBURG LINE these men [2645 T.W. FOLKARD ... DICK ... DOBE ... HOARE ... HATTON ... ONIONS ... HOLDEN ... UPCHURCH ... SEE] under the command of Lieutenant JULIN of 52 Battalion volunteered in spite of continuous —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo.

Statement by Member for Wanneroo

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [3.36 pm]: I, too, rise to make a contribution on this important motion. It has been a privilege to hear my fellow members' contributions, which have been so varied and so very powerful. This Sunday, Australians across our country and people all around the world will come together as one in silent reflection on the Centenary of Armistice and the tragedy that was World War I. It is believed that more than 16 million people worldwide, including more than seven million civilians, died in World War I. The death, dislocation and impact cannot truly be imagined by us today, living in modern Australia. The devastation caused by the war was so great that Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that the population of Australia declined in 1915 and again in 1916, the first and to date only times in recorded history, post-Federation, that this has occurred. Every single city and town was affected and every single family was touched. Entire communities were devastated and families lived with the impacts for generations.

Prior to becoming the member for Wanneroo, I was a schoolteacher. I reflected on how I commemorated Remembrance Day as a teacher with my students over the past 27 years. When teaching at Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which has a strong military history, my students were part of incredibly formal and moving ceremonies like the ones many of us will attend on Sunday. During my time at Fitzroy Crossing teaching predominantly Aboriginal students, our Remembrance Day activities were more informal, focused on highlighting that more than 1 000 Indigenous Australians fought in the First World War. Many more attempted to enlist but were denied on the grounds of race. Those who managed to successfully enlist enjoyed equal pay and generally equal treatment with all soldiers—a rarity at the time. I have always spent it with children. I am delighted that so many children will attend ceremonies on Sunday. I have no doubt that the growing support for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day is due in no small part to the growing role played by our schools in teaching our children about history.

Many of us are parents and grandparents. All of us share our lives with young people in one way or another. It is our duty to explain to them what this day means to us. We can do this in so many simple ways. Talk with children about it throughout the year—not just on Remembrance Day, but at other times too. This kind of discussion can be short, simple and matter of fact with young children, but as they get older, we can really start to share some

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hard truths with them. They are truths such as the fact that men and women went off to war. They left their mums, dads, wives, husbands and, in some cases, kids to trudge off to war. They left the comfort of their home for the cold, wet trenches and left the calm of Australia for the constant fear of war elsewhere. It is likely that those people were afraid, very afraid. It is likely they were cold and hungry and endured seeing friends die right next to them. They went to sleep each night not knowing whether it would be their last. They did all of that for us. We should be grateful for that every day and we must talk to our children about that. Make those conversations with children personal. If there are any relatives or friends who went to war, tell children about them. I have a grandfather I never knew. My father did not have a father. I need my children to understand that. It is my duty to make my children think about what that would have been like. We need to talk to children about family members who were lost in war, to help children realise that sacrifice is not an abstract thing—it is not about other families; we all have connections to war. Maybe it was a great-grandmother who lost a younger brother or husband. It is likely that she and her family sent them off as a hero to fanfare and love and later got a letter saying that he had been killed in action, overseas, a long way from home. This makes it real. We must tell these stories to our children. We can take our children to a ceremony and attend school ceremonies, and when we see what children are learning at school we can use those conversations at home to reinforce and even expand on what they have learnt. We must talk to our children about what they are learning at school. We must also tell our children that there are Australian soldiers who are in the line of fire today; they are on peacekeeping missions or in war-torn areas and they are in danger. They are risking their lives even now on behalf of our country, and we must tell our children that.

Young Australians are increasingly looking for and finding meaning for what it means to be Australian. Young people are pausing on Remembrance Day to remember individual sacrifices made in our name and devotion to duty. Remembrance Day is not about war, but about love and friendship, love for and between friends, and love of our family and our country. It is about honouring men and women whose lives were devoted to not only themselves but also to us, and in their last moments to one another. Their legacy is a safer and more peaceful world for our children. It is our privilege and duty to ensure that their great sacrifice continues to be remembered and honoured. We must talk to our children to make it so.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Leader of the House

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [3.42 pm]: There are rare moments in the history of the Parliament when motions of such importance and solemnness are debated, and this debate is one today. I congratulate all members who have made a contribution to the debate today—the acknowledgment of the Armistice on 11 November. I acknowledge the deeply personal stories of members who presented today their connections through their families and friendships with the enduring Australian story that is the memories and recognition of the Anzac legend. We have heard from members about their communities. When we look at the communities that we represent in this place, many of them were only very small—some of them did not exist. But of course throughout Western Australia and Australia there are towns, suburbs and cities that have enduring stories that collectively make up our Australian story. That is why on Sunday, wherever we may be, wherever we may gather, the memory of those who served this country is a remarkable recognition and acknowledgment. It does not matter whether it is a small country town in the south west, in the north, the goldfields or a suburb of Perth, the great thing is that the enduring legacy of our collective Australian story will be remembered. It reminds us always to look thy last on all things beautiful, every hour.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [3.44 pm]: I rise to speak on the Centenary of Armistice. One hundred years ago this Sunday the guns fell silent on the battlefields of the Great War—the war that was to end all wars. Our young nation and the world were changed forever. The actions of the Anzacs on those battlefields has passed into legend, with the principles of service, sacrifice and mateship forged in those distant places at the core of what we know as the Anzac spirit and form much of what we define ourselves to be as Australians. The word Anzac has come to stand for the qualities that Australians have seen their forces show in times of war and conflict. These qualities collectively make up the Anzac spirit and include endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship—qualities that are still seen today within those who serve in combat and non-combat roles in our contemporary military. The stories we hear of the Anzacs and the wars and conflicts since are often stories of combat, great deeds and monumental failures experienced on the battlefield. But what of the stories of the men and women whose military service to our country is based off-field in the vital roles of engineering, logistics,

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hospitality, health care, science and chaplaincy? I am not suggesting that those roles are not seen as important both within our armed forces and in our communities; it is simply that their stories are not heard so often.

The story of Private John Simpson and his donkey is by far the most well known of these stories and the legend of the “man and his donkey” has come to represent the symbol of all that was pure, selfless and heroic about the Anzacs. English-born John Simpson had found his way to the Yilgarn goldfield of Western Australia shortly before the commencement of the Great War. On 25 August 1914, he joined the Australian Imperial Force at Blackboy Hill camp. Allotted to the 3rd Field Ambulance, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, he embarked from Fremantle on 2 November for Egypt. Private Simpson landed on Gallipoli with the covering force at dawn on 25 April 1915 and quickly befriended a donkey to carry leg wound casualties to the dressing station. Day and night he worked cheerfully and unconcernedly amid fierce shrapnel and rifle fire, carrying the wounded from the head of Monash Valley down Shrapnel Gully to the beach. His inspirational work and good fortune however were to be short-lived. On 19 May he was shot through the heart and buried on the beach at Hell Spit. In 24 days he rescued over 300 men.

I will add one other story here today of non-combat service. Although this story is known by only a handful of people, it nonetheless provides illumination on the importance of non-combat roles in war, and I take great pride in adding it to *Hansard*. It is a story of an engineer with the Australian Defence Force, a builder of roads through the jungles of Papua New Guinea during War World II. That engineer was my grandfather, Alfred Gordon Hams. We hear many stories of young men who lied about their age in order to enlist and do their bit for their country. Most often they are the stories of underage enlistees who bumped up their age. At the time of his enlistment Fred Hams, as he was known, was officially too old to join the ADF, which at that time had an upper age limit of 40 years. At 41 he was one year past that age, but so determined was he to contribute to the service of his country that he took a year off his age upon enlistment in order to do his bit for Australia.

Fred was experienced in road building, having worked for some time for a local contractor who built roads around the district of the Victorian Gippsland country shire where he lived with his wife, May, my grandmother, and their children Gordon, Margaret, Neil, and my father, George. The colonial capital of Port Moresby on the south coast of Papua was the strategic key for the Japanese in this area of operations. Capturing it would both neutralise the Allies' principal forward base and serve as a springboard for a possible invasion of Australia. The development of a road network for allied military forces was essential for the protection of Australia's northern border. Fred's skills would be invaluable to these efforts and he was not going to let something like militarily defined old age deter him. He would go on to complete his World War II service and return to build a successful family business based on the engineering skills he had further developed during his time in Papua New Guinea. I thank my grandfather and all those who have served and continue to serve in combat and non-combat roles in our military forces. We enjoy the freedoms we have today because of them.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Thornlie

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.48 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary since the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918. I acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice of millions who lost their lives, including many Western Australians. I salute the more than 32 000 Western Australians who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force to serve in World War I. The horrid tragedy of war must not be forgotten and never glossed over. Too often in war, including in the Great War, declarations and decisions to deploy were made by older men who never went to battle themselves. Instead, they sent millions of young men to fight to the death; to fight until their injuries stopped them; to fight and suffer profound physical and psychological scars; to fight and bring tragedy and trauma to their families and communities—scars that lasted for generations. Walk around Kings Park and read the inscriptions of the commemorative plaques and we see inscription after inscription marking the deaths of young people who never made it to their twenties or their thirties. For us, 100 years later, we remember their sacrifice. We remember, but we must also learn—humanity must learn.

The 1918 Armistice was signed in a railway wagon in a forest clearing near Compiègne in northern France. It was signed at 5.15 am, and the ceasefire came into effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. I think of those whose lives were lost, or whose lives were forever damaged. I think of the many people from Gosnells who served, the names recorded on the Gosnells Primary School Honour Roll and at the War Memorial. The original Armistice was valid for only 36 days, but it was renewed on several occasions until 28 June 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Arguably, the terms of that treaty led to the humiliation of a nation and the rise of ultranationalist politics. On 3 September 1939, World War II began, with more horrific tragedy on an unimaginable scale.

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Humanity must learn. One lesson we have learnt over the last 70 years is that when nations combine together in mutually beneficial trade agreements the incentive to use war to achieve power and wealth is removed. The Treaty of Rome and its subsequent agreements is a fine demonstration of this. We remember the sacrifice of so many. To honour their sacrifice each of us must work to eliminate the circumstances that can lead to war. Demonisation of people of other cultures and creeds has been used to manipulate the minds of otherwise reasonable beings. We must guard against this and counter it when it arises. That is how we can honour the fallen.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [3.51 pm]: This Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. It is not an exaggeration to say that our nation found a common identity for the first time in the trenches of Flanders, the steep slopes of Gallipoli and the deserts of Palestine. It was at once a national tragedy and a national triumph. Every community in our nation suffered a hideous culling of its young, strong and brave. From the Cenotaph at Kings Park to Albany and Bellevue, Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, all communities of our young state have found ways to remember the destruction of a generation.

Some of those communities played a particular part in preparing our young men to go and fight. In representing the electorate of Midland, I represent a region that was settled in the early years of the Swan River Colony, where the impact of the war effort was colossal. Midland and the Midland Railway Workshops were patriotic and keen contributors to the war effort. The War Memorial at the workshops, set up by the workers themselves, commemorates 70 fallen comrades who had worked at the Midland Railway Workshops. Many have mentioned Blackboy Hill today, also in my electorate. Referred to at the time as Helena Vale, it was a very broad area around Midland, and is now known as Greenmount. Young men were trained there, and many have described Blackboy Hill as the birthplace of Western Australia's Anzac forces. Only 12 days after the declaration of war, the first volunteers arrived at Blackboy Hill. In all, some 32 000 men trained at Blackboy Hill. That represented 11 per cent of the population of the state of Western Australia at the time—not 11 per cent of the young men, but 11 per cent of the entire population. Over 6 000 of those young men did not return. They died on active service.

One of the young men who trained at Blackboy Hill was Hugo Throssell, son of a former Premier of this state. Hugo went on to serve with the 10th Light Horse, and was awarded a Victoria Cross for acts of bravery in the Gallipoli campaign. He later married writer Katharine Susannah Prichard, and they settled in a cottage in Greenmount, in what is now known as the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre.

I pay particular tribute to the young men who passed through Guildford, in my electorate, on their way to war. At the beginning of the war, the South Guildford remount depot became the headquarters for the eighth battery of the gunners, and the grounds were used for the training of the Western Australian 10th Light Horse. The 10th Light Horse fought as infantry at Gallipoli, being involved in the famous offensive at The Nek, and in the battle for Hill 60. The regiment went on to fight again as mounted infantry, taking part in the great cavalry charge at the Battle of Beersheba. Guildford paid a heavy price for its contribution to the war. Seventy-one of its young men did not return home. In this, it is no different from so many other Western Australian communities, marked and diminished by war.

It is a mark of the strength and resilience of Guildford and communities like it that they were able to recover from that war, weather a depression and then fight another war all over again. Those communities emerged from the great cauldron that was the first half of the twentieth century stronger, wiser and more able to continue the great work of building a community worthy of those who had served it so nobly.

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [3.56 pm]: At 11 o'clock on Sunday, 11 November, communities all over Australia will come together in recognition of the 100th year since the Armistice was signed. It is a moment for reflection and, as we have heard in the house today, it is a moment of intense emotion for many people. As with so many members in this place, my own family has been touched by both the First and the Second World Wars. As a child, I remember my father, Thomas Smith Punch, as being very different from other dads. He was an old man, he always coughed, and he was always in hospital with chest problems. It was not until later in life that I found out that he had actually been gassed in the First World War. As a young man of 18, he enlisted and was sent to France, and fought at the Battle of the Somme. I do not have a lot of details about his time there. He would not speak about it, but I did find out from my mother that he was one of three brothers, two of whom did not come home. One was killed in a naval action, and one was machine-gunned while fighting alongside my father. My father subsequently took out that machine-gun post that killed his brother, and I am sure that in doing so he ended the lives of equally young men on the opposite side. My mother told me that he received a battlefield commission for that action.

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I have only a few pictures of my father, but one is of a very young man proudly wearing his officer's uniform. He looked very different from the man that I later knew.

Later in life, I married, and found that my father-in-law, Fred Brown, who lived in Attadale for many years, had served with the Australian Army at Crete. In May 1941 Crete was invaded in one of the first battles in which paratroops were used. Fred, along with many other Australian troops, was captured and imprisoned in Germany. They were often cold, hungry, intensely bored and separated from family. When I knew him, he seldom spoke about the war. In fact, he would not, but he had a passion for always making sure that there was food in the house and that no-one in the family would ever go hungry. He dedicated the rest of his life to Legacy and the Lodge of Remembrance, and he never forgot.

We are all touched by war, by the honour of serving one's country, and the sacrifices and the pain that people experience. Today, I have three sons, and the youngest is about to go on deployment with the Australian Defence Force to the Middle East. He has been well trained and he is incredibly supported, and so are we as his family. It is with a real mix of pride and apprehension that Helen and I will see him go, and I cannot help but think about how my father's parents felt when my father left, and how Fred Brown's parents felt. The Defence Force today embraces family—wives, husbands, partners, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters—but we can never forget our history and those brave people who have gone before us, and the impact of their sacrifice on their families and their communities who live on. They have given so much.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.58 pm]: I firstly congratulate all members of Parliament on their wonderful contributions today. I rise to make a small contribution about a date that I think is so important to all Australians. At 11.00 am on 11 November 1918 on the Western Front the guns fell silent after four years of warfare. Armistice is defined as the suspension of fighting. That enabled the peace settlement to be secured, and I am sure members of all sides are pleased that happened. It has been mentioned that one in five—about 32 000—Western Australian men enlisted, and 6 000 did not return. I acknowledge those many families left behind on farms in regional communities, and metropolitan communities. Many in farming communities did it very tough, and many lost their beloved sons, nephews, brothers and fathers. I do not think any of us can understand how difficult those times were, and how difficult it was for those left behind.

Within the electorate of Roe there are many reminders of the sacrifices made. One is the Muradup memorial, which was built by the community of Muradup. Every year an Anzac service is held in Kojonup, and then the Kojonup and Muradup communities come together at the Muradup memorial. It is a fantastic tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for us. I pay tribute to the descendants of the small communities spread throughout the wheatbelt and electorate of Roe. Their family members sacrificed their lives to protect our way of life and democracy. Australia has a fantastic democracy, and those sacrifices gave us that opportunity. Every year I attend an Anzac memorial service, whether at Katanning, Esperance or a smaller town within my electorate. The popularity of those services is increasing, and I believe they give our kids a much better chance to understand and appreciate the sacrifices made. I feel that over the last 10 to 20 years we have seen a real increase in our kids' understanding of the great sacrifices made.

I briefly acknowledge Sonja Andrews and her RSL group in Esperance, which recently launched the World War 2 app that has enlightened many members of the public not only in Esperance, but also right around Australia, on the sacrifices made. There were also fantastic displays in the Esperance Civic Centre that gave the community and kids of that region the opportunity to see the conditions during World Wars I and II.

I also acknowledge sacrifices made by the Aboriginal community, as mentioned by the member for Moore earlier today. Many enlisted, including one person in particular from Katanning. I also acknowledge the support and nursing staff, and the many others in the background. I acknowledge the sacrifices made.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Armadale

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [4.03 pm]: It is lovely to follow the great contribution of the member for Roe.

I begin by acknowledging the service in conflict zones of the members for Warnbro, Willagee and Churchlands. This weekend we and our local communities will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. When we stand for a minute of silence at 11.00 am on 11 November, we will pay our respects to the thousands who died or became very damaged on the battlefield. Many people from my electorate of Armadale and surrounding areas went to the Great War. The very enterprising former Mayor of Armadale, Linton Reynolds, has

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collated a number of stories and statistics for the local region that can be found at the BirtwistleWiki website. He should be congratulated on his outstanding efforts.

While reflecting on the damage to and loss of life of Australians who served in the Great War and other wars, we should also think about those from other nations who died in all wars. The member for Geraldton, as did another member, mentioned some other countries. The member for Geraldton mentioned the Polish fallen. I would like to reflect on the role of my ancestral country, Italy, in the Great War. Italy did not enter the war until 1915, after the signing of the Treaty of London. It was then on the side of America, France and Britain, and therefore of course Australia. By the end of war in 1918, 600 000 Italians had died, 950 000 were wounded, and 250 000 were severely maimed. Many of their offspring ended up in Western Australia, and I pay my respects to them.

The member for Baldivis said the Great War changed the world. Indeed it did, but it unfortunately did not prevent future wars. The member for Kwinana mentioned that in his younger days he felt uneasy at Anzac celebrations—I probably felt the same. But I remember as a very young child going to Anzac ceremonies in Collie, and not feeling that uneasy. I remember fallen Vietnam veterans being commemorated at the Anzac ceremony in Collie. Those who are old enough will remember the way we treated Vietnam veterans, and that is something we should never be proud of. We have moved on, and Anzac Day or Remembrance Day is now not a time to celebrate war but a time to reflect on war and its consequences, including the loss of generally very young lives that were cut down way before their prime.

To conclude my brief comments, I reiterate that if possible we should always seek to avoid war—sometimes it is not possible—and always respect those who fell or were injured and carried those scars for the rest of their lives. Member for Churchlands, I think you were outside when I acknowledged your service.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: No, I heard. Thank you.

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [4.07 pm]: I join members in noting the end of the World War I conflict. Of course, the war continued until the following August, until the signing of the peace treaty. That treaty went on to be a source of conflict between the wars, and led directly to the European component of World War II. So, arguably, the war to end all wars continued through that whole period. It is a little-known fact that as many Indians were killed at the Gallipoli landings as Australians, and that hundreds of thousands of Chinese were involved on the Allied side in Europe who worked as, effectively, labourers to support the Allied effort on the Western Front.

We should never underestimate the impact of war on those who return. I want to briefly note the effect that participation in World War II had on my father. I mentioned this in my inaugural speech. He suffered from what at the time was called war neurosis but would now be called post-traumatic stress disorder. It led directly to his death in 1965, when my mother by then had eight children. The oldest was aged 15 and the youngest was me at the age of two. My mum used to talk to me about my father going off to the veterans hospital in Sydney every so often for treatment and the impact that had on her and the fact that, particularly for his last four years of life, he was not able to work. The point I am making here—I am not talking about myself but rather the impact on my father—is that it is not just soldiers and the impact on their families from those who fall in battle or even those who are injured in battle. Although there is no question of the impact that has on people's families—the Premier in his moving contribution this morning made it clear about the impact on the families of the fallen—it is also true that there is enormous impact on others, even when service men and women return. We are now starting to pay attention to post-traumatic stress disorder for returned service men, and that is appropriate. We need to always be looking for ways to support people who are impacted in that way. Unfortunately, it was not previously talked about. For many years, people's mental health impacts from war service was something that was not properly taken account of and there was not sufficient support for people in that position. We are all pleased now that it is not just the impact on the battlefield; it is the impact on the person that is now being considered. I must say, I cannot believe the number of tours of duty that are required of soldiers in modern conflicts such as the Afghanistan conflict. This continuously putting people back into harm's way is clearly having a significant cumulative impact on the servicemen.

I finish by commenting that of course Australia's World War I service was done by volunteers. Almost alone amongst the allies and amongst the participants on both sides, we had a volunteer army. When conscription was proposed, not only did the nation vote against conscription for use in the European theatre, so did the soldiers in the trenches. Of course, we allowed the soldier in the trench to have a say on elections and on the referenda. On those occasions, the soldiers voted against conscription. Even though it was a massive volunteer army, it had all

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the impacts members have talked about. They did not want to see people forced to be part of that, so I pay tribute to those servicemen who have struggled on behalf of our nation.

Statement by Member for Pilbara

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [4.12 pm]: I am honoured to rise today to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice. This Sunday marks 100 years since the Armistice was signed at 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, marking the end of World War I. The Great War is the most significant and costly war in Australia's history to date. In 1914, over 179 000 men were living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War, which represented nearly 20 per cent of the male population at the time. More than 6 000 of these men were killed. Thousands more were wounded and suffered from disease and illness. Tragically, more than 20 000 Australians rest beneath unnamed tombstones. To add to this, there are many others who lie undiscovered, and their physical remains are lost to us and their families. We may never know the full stories of nearly 200 young men from Roebourne and surrounding districts, including Cossack, Whim Creek and remote stations, who enlisted in the armed forces.

The Great War started about 50 years after Roebourne was established, and the impact that the loss of life had on the Pilbara was devastating. About one-third of local Pilbara soldiers died at war, compared with about 15 per cent of soldiers Australia-wide. And back at home, Roebourne residents frequently had to go without basic necessities when supply ships diverted for the war effort failed to arrive at Point Samson. There was not one town or region not touched by the war; not one community that did not lose someone through injury, poisonous gas or as a prisoner of war. We pay tribute to these soldiers who fought; the nurses who served and the animals and families who suffered in the Great War. We also pay tribute to those from past and present conflicts and those affected by them.

I would like to pay my respects to Merv Stanton's family. Merv Stanton was Port Hedland's last World War II veteran and he passed away last year. After enlisting in the Army during World War II as part of the 3rd Australian guerrilla warfare group, which fought the Japanese off the north-west coast, Merv called Port Hedland home in 1942. Since his time in the war, and as part of the RSL community in Port Hedland, Merv was known for his generosity, humour and yarns, including loading the first manganese ship at the port. I would like to pay my respects also to the Lockyer family. Arnold, Edgar, Albert, Elliott and Eric Lockyer were five Indigenous brothers who grew up near Whim Creek and set off to fight for their country in World War II. Only three would return home. In 1945, Arnold was among several pilots shot down and captured by the Japanese in Indonesia, and Eric was killed in action in Borneo. The Lockyer brothers served and defended Australia at a time when Indigenous people were socially, economically and politically disadvantaged. The Lockyer brothers hold a special place in the history of the Pilbara, and there is a memorial commemorating their commitment and dedication to their communities and to their country at Whim Creek. In the Great War, 133 Aboriginal men from WA volunteered, with 83 of them seeing overseas service. Of the 83 Indigenous Western Australians who served, three of them, Corporal Augustus Farmer, Corporal Stanley Hedley and Private Alfred Rawson, were recipients of the Military Medal for gallantry; and 12 of them died on the battlefield, including one at Gallipoli, Trooper Dickerson.

I would like to pay my respects to soldiers of Indian origin who served in the Australian forces. Records show that five Indian origin soldiers were recruited in South Australia; four in New South Wales; one in Victoria and two in Western Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to honour and pay my respects to approximately 62 000 Indian soldiers who died in World War I. There are many stories that we may never hear of soldiers who gave their lives serving our country. We honour all our defence force personnel in past and present conflicts, but we especially pay tribute to the soldiers and nurses who served in World War I, including the many who never returned. We recognise how their sacrifice a century ago shaped the freedom we are able to enjoy today. We remember those who have fallen, and those who returned to never be the same again.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [4.17 pm]: In rising today, I want to endorse the sentiments in the Premier's statement this morning. I think he captured much of what I would have said. There have been many other fine contributions. I have not heard them all but I particularly want to endorse what the Premier had to say. I also want to acknowledge the role of some of the RSL members in my electorate. Ashley Vince, president of the Eastern Regional sub-branch of the RSL, has done a fantastic job leading that sub-branch in the time that I have been a member of Parliament. He does an incredible job on days such as Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day or Remembrance Day. The sub-branch holds services in Guildford, Bassendean and Bayswater. Ashley does a tremendous job. A couple of years ago he presided over all those ceremonies with a couple of broken ribs after

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having had a fall. Not even that deterred him. To Ashley and his team, I thank them for their commitment to the ongoing delivery of services in recognition of our returned service men and women. I also pay tribute to Bob Hobbs, who is ex-Navy and is also a member of the Eastern Regional RSL sub-branch. He regularly comes into my office to photocopy and do a few other things. As well as being a hard worker for the sub-branch, he also manages to entertain my electorate staff with his terrible jokes! I just wanted to mention Bob.

As well as remembering those who have died in the service of our country, I think we need to remember that those who come home need as much care and recognition as anyone. It is a terrible fact that so many of our ex-service men and women end their lives when they come home because they cannot deal with the trauma that they have experienced through active service. We need to provide that level of care and support to people who have served their country overseas. It is an inevitable consequence of war that people will come back damaged, both physically and psychologically. To honour them on days such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day is simply not enough. It is an absolute tragedy that so many of our ex-service men and women cannot find work. Many become homeless. They also suffer from mental illness and ultimately many commit suicide. On a day like today we need to remember that the people who come home need to be cared for as much as the people who lost their lives need to be remembered.

I also pay particular tribute to the Indigenous men and women who fought for our country. Many of them in the Great War and the Second World War and beyond served in our armed forces at a time when Aboriginal people did not have equal rights in Australia. I can only imagine how distressing it must have been for those serving men and women to risk their lives overseas and then come back to Australia and find themselves being treated as less than full Australian citizens. I know a number of other members have mentioned that, but on a day like today I want to specifically mention our Indigenous men and women who have served.

Finally, I want to say that the best way that we can honour those who have lost their lives, or who have served our country overseas, is to ensure that war never happens again. I know that is something that will probably never be achieved, but war is a terrible thing. War is evidence of diplomatic failure; failure in our international relations. War inevitably causes the loss of life and it causes immense damage to everybody who encompasses it. The best thing we can do to remember our men and women who served for us is to ensure that war is the absolute last option, not the voice of nationalism. As parliamentarians, we have a special role in that, even in state Parliament.