

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
on the occasion of the
2009 City of Cockburn ANZAC Youth Parade and Service
RSL Park, Spearwood

The Importance of War Memorials

Good morning! I extend a warm welcome to:

- Mr Joe Francis, MLA, Member for Jandakot;
- The Hon. Francis Logan, MLA, Member for Cockburn;
- City of Cockburn Councillors:
 - Val Oliver;
 - Julie Baker; and
 - Ian Whitfield;
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn,;
- Miss Elyce Lines, Cockburn Youth Mayor,
- RSL President and Chief Marshall, Arthur Stanton,
- Members of the Cockburn RSL,
- staff and students of schools across the district; and
- members of the public.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand before you during this very important ceremony in remembrance of and respect for our ANZACs.

Today I share with you the history and importance of war memorials.

War Memorials are an important part of our landscape, history and heritage. They are physical reminders of the service and sacrifice of men and women in times of war and in helping to maintain peace and order.

Today we are standing in the RSL Memorial Park. Initiated by the Cockburn RSL Veterans and Vietnam Veterans, the RSL memorial before us commemorates those men and women who have been involved in wars since World War II.

It was dedicated on the 18 November 1994 and rests on the base of the original War Memorial that was first erected here in 1922.

That memorial was re-located in the 1970's and now stands alongside the Memorial Hall.

This year marks the eight annual City of Cockburn ANZAC Youth Parade. The parade was first put together by RSL President and Chief Marshall, Arthur

Stanton and invites you, the students of Cockburn, to join veterans, your Council and your community to recognise ANZAC Day.

I'd like you to close your eyes for a moment, feel the gentle breeze on your face and think of the freedom that you enjoy today.

That freedom came at a cost.

I urge you to think of the brave and gallant efforts of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and for those who brought back the wounds of war; some visible and some not so visible.

We often look at those shiny medals on their chests awarded for service, awarded for gallantry, awarded for bravery beyond the call of duty. They are a symbol of pride for those who wear them and for those of us who look up to them.

We know not what they have endured personally, sometimes we hear a story or two but for most they carry memories of days gone past close within.

We are privileged today to be gathered at this war memorial and to have the opportunity to reflect and appreciate the sacrifices made by those we have lost to war.

However the greatest memorial I see is you, the children of our district, the future of our district.

For you are the ones that will carry the Australian flag forward – the great Australian dream - in honour of those men and women who have fought so that we can enjoy the peace that living in Australia affords us all.

Even today, there are thousands of young men and women, not much older than you, serving in theatres of war in far distant lands, away from family and friends, away from home, fighting for our freedom and that of others, most of whom we will never know or meet.

We must never forget the sacrifice that they are making – and the fact that our future rests in your hands.

Lest we forget!