



**Adjournment Speech by
GLEN ELMES**

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard, 30 April, 2008

Anzac Day, Coolum-Peregian RSL

Mr ELMES (Noosa--Lib) (9.49 pm):

Tonight I rise to draw the attention of the House to the magnificent Anzac Day celebrations conducted by the Coolum-Peregian RSL sub-branch and to recognise the efforts of that group.

Last Friday I was privileged to attend my 19th Anzac Day dawn service at Coolum. I was proud to witness an old mate of mine and Coolum community stalwart, Bill Powell, conduct his first Anzac Day service as president of the sub-branch. Prior to Anzac Day, on 11 April I was invited to the relatively new rooms at the RSL to meet with the district's returned veterans, retired Defence Force personnel and their supporters. I can tell the House that their thirst has not diminished over the years.

I spent the better part of two very happy hours serving behind the bar and pouring drinks for Tony Padroth, Tony Lewis, Mike Buchanan, John Miller, Jim Husband and many others. In the time between that event and Anzac Day, Bill Powell, together with deputy president Athol Hatten, Don Holt and Padre Ian Taylor, visited five of our local schools--Coolum State Primary School and Coolum State High School, Coolum Christian College, Peregian Beach Community College and St Andrew's Anglican College--talking to the students about the meaning of Anzac Day and presenting each of the schools with \$300 towards their Anzac Day garden and a plaque to commemorate the visit. They also visited a number of retirement villages including the Mount Coolum Retirement Village, Amarina Gardens, the Blue Care Respite Centre and Sundale's Coolum Waters retirement village.

Another visit to speak to the local AFL Juniors meant that these four terrific community members spread the news and meaning of Anzac Day as far and wide as possible. At the dawn service on Anzac Day itself between 3,000 and 4,000 people attended to take part in what was a very solemn occasion. In past years the crowd has numbered fewer than 300, such is the growth in interest and respect for those who have served their country in times of war. I congratulate Padre Ian Taylor, Ian Gill for his Anzac Day address, and the many members of the community who took an active part in the service including my colleagues Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore; Alex Somlyay, the federal member for Fairfax; and Councillor Vivien Griffin.

I know that the Coolum-Peregian RSL sub-branch is not unique in its resolute commitment to Anzac Day. Its efforts are echoed across our state. The dedication of those who organised and those who attended are a living honour to the Anzac spirit. Bill Powell and his committee deserve thanks for a job well done from the entire Coolum community.
