

NATIONAL ANZAC CENTRE, ALBANY

Motion

HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West) [11.29 am] — without notice: I move —

That the house congratulates the state and federal governments for building the award-winning National Anzac Centre in Albany, which is dedicated to honouring the Anzacs of the First World War and pays tribute to our Anzacs in this centenary of the First World War.

Today, this house recognises the centenary of the first landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. I thank Hon Sue Ellery for her motion. We pay tribute to those who fought and died. I recognise and congratulate the state and federal governments for building the National Anzac Centre in Albany. In doing so I recognise that it was a federal Labor government that provided the \$7.9 million, and a federal Liberal government that carried it through. In other words, the National Anzac Centre was a bipartisan effort. I remember sitting in the main street of Albany with the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard and a few others discussing plans for the centre. Support was right across the board—similar to the support displayed in the chamber today. We all recognise our Anzacs; we revere them because they did such a wonderful job. Hon Sue Ellery mentioned—I will paraphrase what she said—that we revere a campaign that we lost and that leadership during the campaign was terrible and shocking. She is very right to say that; it was terrible leadership.

Some two years ago, I was involved in the Anzac Day dawn service at Gallipoli. Hon Barry House has visited Gallipoli and I know a few other members in this chamber have had a similar honour. I also presented a wreath at Lone Pine. I went on a three-week parliamentary tour and during the tour a historian on the bus allowed us to follow where the Anzacs fought. The dawn service at Gallipoli was an emotional service. I sat in the front row and watched the sun come up. As the sun rose, the names and the ages of the servicemen who died flashed across the screen. I have never attended anything more moving. Those young men did not have a chance. I had stood at Anzac Cove just two days before the Anzac service. While I was there, I looked up at the terrain and said to my husband, “They were just slaughtered.” Having physically looked at the terrain, they should never have landed there in the first place. It brings home how hard they fought to stay alive. Of course, many did not make it.

Anzac Day has a special place in my heart because my grandfather Claude Cockram went to the First World War. He was a very spoilt young man, who was a Scotch College boy and a first-class cricketer at the WACA. My great-grandfather brought the first silver Ghost Rolls-Royce to Western Australia in 1913, and my grandfather and his brother used it to scream around the Kalamunda hills. At the age of 19, he enlisted and found himself fighting on the fields of France. Having been to where he fought, I am amazed that he and other men came back. Members will often hear me say that I am so glad that my grandfather came back because if he had not, I and other family members would not be here. These young men had so much potential, but many of them were gunned down and killed. My grandfather was a stretcher-bearer with the 4th Field Ambulance in the 13th battalion. I have read about the 13th battalion and what the stretcher-bearers had to do. They did more than collect the wounded. Sometimes it took them a couple of days to get out from the trenches because of enemy fire. The wounded would lay between the trenches screaming in agony knowing that they were dying. Indeed, many of them did die in those trenches. It would have been absolutely horrific to be a stretcher-bearer.

John Pandazopoulos, who is a leader of the Greek community, took us on the parliamentary trip with the historian. Nurses have been mentioned today. We visited Lemnos and looked at its terrain; there is absolutely nothing there and from the ABC film clips I have seen, there would have been nothing there when the nurses landed. The wind coming off the water would have been bitterly cold. How they worked under those conditions, I do not know. But it was duty first for the many Canadian, Australians and English nurses, and they just got on with it. I certainly have a real appreciation for them, having been to Lemnos where the Anzacs trained before going to Gallipoli.

The National Anzac Centre is a fabulous building that sits on the edge of Mt Adelaide set within Albany Heritage Park. It is an amazing building that has been dedicated to honouring the Anzacs of the First World War. It offers visitors a deeply personal connection with the Anzac legend, which is revealed through interactive media displays, unique artefacts, rare images and film and audio commentary. It presents the stories of 32 people—23 Australians, six New Zealanders, one Brit, one German and one Turk. Visitors get an identity card of one of the characters and follows their personal journey beginning with recruitment and training, embarkment, shipboard life on the convoys, the conflicts at Gallipoli, the Middle East and the Western Front, and post-war—for those who returned—through a first-person account of the horrors of the conflict. It finishes at a place of remembrance that constantly screens the names of the 41 265 Australian and New Zealand men and women who left Albany in the first and second convoys of November and December 1914. Those of us who were lucky to attend the opening of the National Anzac Centre did not have much time to spend there, but it was an absolutely

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magical weekend. All members of the South West Region were present, both Labor and Liberal. For those who know me, I was told by the Feds that I was not important enough to lay a wreath. This made me very angry, because not only was —

Hon Sue Ellery: How did that work out for the person who told you that?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: This is true!

Hon Simon O'Brien: There was a further casualty!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Members obviously know me and know that I was not going to accept that under any circumstance! I walked down with my wreath and sat down and watched all these so-called important people take the first row, including the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand. That is fair enough; I have no problem with that. But I was not allowed to be in the official party even though my grandfather and his brother left from Albany and even though the ceremony was being held in my electorate. I had my wreath under my seat. At the end of the ceremony, community members were asked to lay a wreath. Before that happened, I ran over to the President, Hon Barry House, and asked him whether he could lay a wreath with me. He said that he would be very pleased and honoured to do that. Hon Barry House and I laid the wreath and it was a very special moment for both of us. When Hon Barry House was walking back after laying the wreath, he received a text from his cousin in Queensland telling him that we had been seen laying the wreath. When I got the video of the service the next day, Hon Barry House and I were front and centre. That will teach the Feds to tell a local Western Australian that she is not important enough to lay a wreath. How dare they! To whoever was responsible, a big kick to you!

The centre is absolutely beautiful. It has exhibits and artefacts, including a small wristwatch given to Albany's Private Humfray Hassell of the 19th Light Horse Regiment, who was killed in the charge at the Nek in August 1915; a gold cigarette case given by Turkish leader Kemal Atatürk to the Australian Prime Minister Stanley Bruce; and guns and displays. The display space is 300 square metres. It is absolutely magnificent. The centre cost \$10.6 million. Not often do I give credit to a public servant—I think we should do more of that. Richard Muirhead was given the task of getting the centre up and ready, and he did so within 14 months. Congratulations to Richard, who did a terrific job on behalf of the state government in getting that up and running on time. It would not have been smooth sailing. I know that Richard worked with the City of Albany. Also, of course, the RSL down there in Albany does a terrific job; it actually runs services all year and is certainly a big operation.

I am glad that the National Anzac Centre's Anzac story takes people through a Turkish person's perspective. When I was in Turkey, I went to the university where there was a bit of a mystery. I was given a book titled *Gallipoli 1915: Through Turkish Eyes* written by Haluk Oral, a historian. I will leave it in the chamber for people to have a look at. While I was there, he showed me artefacts, one of which was a water flask. On the flask is engraved the name of Lieutenant Burdett Philip Nettleton, B Squadron, the Australian Light Horse. I wondered why this was in a Turkish university and why it had not gone back to his relatives. I asked Haluk why he still had it and he said that apparently Lieutenant Nettleton was 26 years old, an only child, and that by the time he had found this water flask in an old second-hand shop in Turkey, he could not trace any relatives. I am actually hoping that the ABC or *The West Australian* might be listening because I have a photograph of Lieutenant Nettleton's water flask and I think it belongs with his relatives; I do not think it belongs in the university in Turkey. I do not think that Haluk would mind me saying that because he did try to and could not find somebody from Lieutenant Nettleton's past. Lieutenant Nettleton came from Vaucluse in Sydney, so he was not a Western Australian boy. However, he was certainly an Australian man and I would like to see his relatives have it.

It is interesting to note what the Turk Şefik Bey said from a Turkish perspective about the Australians and the New Zealanders. He was the commander of the first Turkish regiment to confront the Anzacs. He said —

Having been face to face with these people for around eight months, we got to know them rather well. According to a general view, they were of healthy body, sporty, and sharp. Among them there were many strikingly tall, handsome and strong men, maybe they were all literate, and a good portion of them graduates of high schools. Generally speaking, they were diligent and duty-bound during combat.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral) [11.44 am]: From the outset, I, too, congratulate Hon Robyn McSweeney for bringing her motion before us this morning. I also recognise the earlier motion from the Leader of the Opposition to which I was not quick enough to stand and speak.

I am pleased to note that in a rare show of bipartisanship, both the government and the opposition today were able to raise such an important issue. As a migrant to this state and someone who did not grow up in Western Australia, it was not until my teens that I really learned about the Anzacs and what they meant to Western Australia. I have not had the pleasure of visiting the new National Anzac Centre in Albany at this stage, but I am

told by my colleagues the member for Albany, Peter Watson, and indeed the Leader of the Opposition in the other place that it is a fantastic facility, and I congratulate all those involved.

I want to talk about a number of people who were important Anzacs in this state. The first group of people are the Lockyer brothers. The Lockyer brothers were five young Aboriginal men who grew up in the Pilbara and served in either the First World War or the Second World War. Their achievements are recognised each year at Whim Creek, which of course is in my electorate just between Roebourne and Hedland. These five brothers lived and worked around several Pilbara pastoral stations. When the war came upon us, aside from loving their country, they also enlisted as an opportunity to get citizenship. Members will be aware that in those days it was rare for Aboriginal people to be recognised in that way. Edgar, the oldest brother, and Arnold, the second-oldest, both enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. The younger brothers, Albert, Elliot and Eric, enlisted in the Australian Army. All five served their country with passion and pride. Unfortunately, they did not all return home. Eric, the youngest—I think he was 21 when he enlisted—never returned home. Arnold, who was a flight sergeant in the Air Force, was another of the brothers who never returned home as his plane was shot down over Indonesia. Although he parachuted out of the plane, he was captured by the Japanese. Each year, as I said, in Whim Creek these brothers are recognised. Their involvement in the war is recognised and it is a proud moment, I have to say, for many Pilbara people, and particularly for Aboriginal people in the Pilbara, that these five Aboriginal brothers were able to represent Australia. I therefore want to acknowledge them and their families. Their families each year come out and speak at the memorial. It was a pleasure to meet one of the great-granddaughters of one of the brothers recently through my friend Joan Foley from Hedland. The family come out every year and they too share their story and their pride at the fact that their family and their uncles were able to serve Australia in the war.

The other person I want to acknowledge today is Martin O'Meara. Members will all have received this great little book, *This Gallant Company of Brave Men*, in their offices this week from the Minister for Veterans. I am pleased that he was able to give us multiple copies and I will happily circulate them to schools, particularly in Hedland, where I am due to visit tomorrow for a range of Anzac ceremonies. If members have not opened it yet, it is a great little book. Martin O'Meara is a Victoria Cross recipient. I am mentioning Martin O'Meara in particular because he was born in Ireland. He too came to this country as a teenager. I think Martin O'Meara has a sad history in this state and I think it is one that should be acknowledged. I should at this stage acknowledge the Australian–Irish Heritage Association which has been involved in ceremonies to mark Martin O'Meara's involvement in the war as an Anzac. The association has also been working with the Shire of Collie to ensure a monument is erected in Collie to acknowledge Martin O'Meara's achievements.

As I said, he was born in Ireland and came to Australia as a teenager. When he arrived here, he had worked his passage as a stoker. I was not sure what a stoker was, but I have since found out that a stoker is a person who tends the furnace on a steamship or train. In this case, Martin arrived by ship, so he tended the furnace on a steamship. Why Collie? Martin first worked in Pinjarra and then made his way to Collie, looking for work. In those days he had a job chopping down jarrah trees, essentially, to make railway sleepers. When the Great War began, with several of his fellow workers, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. He left Australia in December 1915 with the 12th Reinforcements to join the 16th Battalion in the Middle East. After training in Egypt, the battalion then moved to the Western Front in France where it fought. On the night of 12 August 1916, the 16th Battalion mounted several attacks on German positions near Pozières. Devastating German artillery fire caused heavy casualties among the 16th Battalion. The battalion's war diary from 1916 stated that, "The trench as a trench had ceased to exist". I think that points out that things were bad and that the battalion took serious fire. It was during this time that Martin O'Meara was his most gallant and the reason he was acknowledged with a Victoria Cross. Martin O'Meara is credited with saving the lives of more than 25 wounded men by carrying them in from no-man's-land under what I have read to be the most indescribable conditions.

Perth historian Ian Loftus has done some good work on the history of Martin O'Meara. In a publication I have seen of his he says that even after the battalion was relieved, its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Drake-Brockman, saw O'Meara returning to the front line through a massive bombardment to rescue two more wounded soldiers, despite, it was claimed, having himself previously reached a position of comparative safety. At other times, on his own initiative, he had brought in much needed supplies of ammunition and food. It was for these actions that Martin O'Meara was awarded the Victoria Cross.

When he came back to Western Australia, he suffered from what was then known as chronic mania but what we know as post-traumatic stress disorder. Tragically, Martin was kept for a long time in what would have been known then as an asylum and he never quite had the proper recognition he deserved. Although he was buried with full military honours, if he had come back from the war today, he would no doubt have been treated a lot differently and with a lot more respect.

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HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [11.54 am]: In March 1916, Percy Mervyn Hislop, aged 24 years, service number 4445, and Donald Roy Hislop, aged 22 years, SN 4446, joined the Army at Blackboy Hill and departed for Egypt as a staging post before they moved to the battlefield in France. Unfortunately, both those brothers never made the year out. Unfortunately for Percy, he was killed, missing in action, in November 1916 and Donald died of illness in a German prisoner of war camp only a few weeks earlier in October 1916.

My great-grandmother often mentioned her two brothers, who were lost in the war. I never really thought much about that until I was a little older and started to look into it a little. It is very pleasing that the Australian War Memorial archives have digitised all those service records and we can follow through from the point at which they joined the Army.

Hon Robyn McSweeney: It's brilliant.

Hon RICK MAZZA: It is brilliant. It contains the complete service records, including medical records. One of them was ill in Egypt with the flu for a period. Both boys were five feet three inches tall, with blonde hair and green eyes and weighed 140 pounds. They were often mistaken in our family for twins, but it was not until later when we looked through the service records that we found they were brothers born a couple of years apart.

One of the really touching things was that, as part of, I suppose, the end of their lives and their family being notified, the Army would go to the parents' house—in this case they were Sarah Ann and Walter Hislop at Blackwood Drive, South Bunbury; that is how accurate the service records are—and give the parents the boys' meagre possessions. In this case there was a list of a hairbrush, a notebook et cetera, which was then signed by the parents as a receipt. One can almost see the grief in the parents' signature. I think in this modern day we forget what those families went through during that time. I have two sons about that age and I could not think for a minute about losing them. Although this story relates to a generation or so ago—I never knew these two great, great-uncles of mine—only through being able to talk to my great-grandmother, who, fortunately, lived until I was eight or nine years old, did I understand part of what those families went through and the grief they must have felt and the effect on Australia. I believe that at the time, Australia had a population of only five million. It was very low and some 400 000 soldiers went to that campaign.

It is also of note that it is not about just the Gallipoli campaign. I know we are celebrating the 100th anniversary and it is very important that we acknowledge all those people but there are all the campaigns along the way: World War II, Korea and Vietnam. A cousin of mine rang me only last week—he is a veteran who saw action in Vietnam—wanting me to go to his RSL meeting tonight, and I will do so. I am very grateful for the sacrifices made by all those diggers, right through to the latest campaign in Afghanistan—I do not think we can fail to mention that—to protect our freedoms. I know a lot of others want to speak, so I will not hold up the house for too long. One thing I want to read, however, is a letter dated 30 June 1915 written by Joe Harris to his family in the Bunbury area, which is where I grew up. Joe was with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Alexandria, Egypt, after being wounded. He writes —

Dear Jack,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive and hope this will find you all well.

Dear Jack I'm sorry to say that I have been wounded. I got hit in the back with a bomb in the trenches, it caught me on the side of the back and I can tell you I didn't know anything for a while whether I was dead or alive. It didn't catch me properly and would have blown me to pieces they are terrible things I have seen fellows blown to pieces with them.

Dear Jack I am getting on very well I can walk around and can eat real well now and we are well looked after in the hospital we get good food and the people bring fruit and all sorts of things in to us.

Well dear Jack we have had a very rough and exciting time since we landed and started fighting the Turks, we never thought we had such a place to land in under heavy artillery fire and machine guns and we were in small boats so you can guess what it was like some of the poor fellows never got out of the boats, as they were shot in them.

You should have seen the charge we made when we did land there was nothing else to do and we had a great hill to climb but we were not long getting to the top. The Turks went for their lives when they saw the Bayonet till they got in their positions at the back of the hill we drove them back about two miles with Bayonet charges but we lost a lot of men and so did the Turks, they are fine big men.

All our men are entrenched now so it is all trench fighting. Where our battalion are entrenched we are only about twelve yards from the Turks trenches, and they send the bombs in I can tell you I don't mind the bullets you can keep your head down in the trenches and miss them, I have had some very close to me at times.

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Well Dear Jack the Dardy boy's have all done well their was no hanging back with them they all went into it like old soldiers. P Williams has been wounded he got hit with a bomb in the legs and I believe he was very bad it shattered both legs, bad luck for him.

Dear Jack none of the Dardanup boy's have been killed that I know of, well well I think I have told you all the news for this time so will conclude with—

It concludes with fond love. It is signed, Joe Harris. Lest we forget.

HON LIZ BEHJAT (North Metropolitan) [12.02 pm]: It is indeed a day for all of us to come together to commemorate this 100th anniversary of the battle at Gallipoli. I join with other members today in congratulating my colleague and good friend Hon Robyn McSweeney in bringing on this private member's motion, as well as the Leader of the Opposition for her previous motion as well. As Hon Stephen Dawson said, this is one of those unfortunately too rare occasions when we do all come together on the same page to commemorate.

Our leader spoke in his contribution in the earlier motion of the Premier's Anzac student tour and I was very privileged indeed to represent him. Our ministers have incredibly busy schedules and cannot always do everything; their loss is often our gain, as I say when I make these speeches. I was fortunate enough to go to Mindarie Senior College recently to present certificates to the 32 students who are currently in Gallipoli representing our state as ambassadors for us on Anzac Day and I was incredibly delighted to do it, for more than one reason. Firstly, ten of those out of the 32 were from my own electorate. It is always wonderful to be meeting young people from one's own electorate. Secondly, the fact that I was able to say to them that I too, as has Hon Robyn McSweeney, have been fortunate enough to spend an Anzac Day at Gallipoli. Madam Deputy President, as you know, together you and I last year shared that experience of sitting in the front row on a very cold dawn at Anzac Cove silently awaiting the rising of the sun, listening to the lapping of the waves on the shore and thinking of those men who, at that time 99 years previously, were then to meet their fate very shortly. Not for the fact that the temperature itself was cold, it certainly sends chills through one's spine when one is there witnessing that whole experience; it is life-changing, as I said to the students when I presented them with their certificates. The students come from all parts of Western Australia. One of the students is from Christmas Island; other students come from Pemberton and Karratha, so from all over the state. As I said to them, they were like the Anzacs themselves, who took off from our shores, not knowing each other at the commencement of their journeys. Because of what they experienced on the shores of Gallipoli, those who survived that tragedy became life-long friends, and I think that is what will happen for the students who are currently embarking on the tour.

We talk about trench warfare and we talk about the fact that we have stood in those trenches. If I was in an Allied forces trench, I would be standing here and the Turkish trench would be where the Leader of the Opposition sits now. We are not talking about major differences, where a missile is sent off just hopefully to hit a target. We are talking about people you can look at in the face, in the eye. That is what trench warfare was. We stood there and wondered how the hell they ever got through any of that. It certainly is a life-changing experience. To be able to go there and share that—I was fortunate enough to take my son with me on that trip, and I know the Deputy President will not mind me saying she took her nephew with her on that trip. Michael, her nephew, and Ali, my son, both said it was an incredibly life-changing thing for them to experience as well. Two days ago I was at Ashdale Secondary College, where my son is a year 12 student. He read the ode and he said, "Mum, doing that at that service brought it back to me so much more as to what we did last year." I was very proud, not only as the chairman of the school board, but as a mother, to see him there commemorating this Anzac Day.

This morning I was at Madeley Primary School, another one of the beautiful independent public schools in my electorate that I am involved with on the cluster chair board. They had their commemoration of Anzac Day. At the end of that service they let out several white doves as symbols of peace and hope. It was quite a touching ceremony that these children had put together and I think that is what is really important: seeing how our children in this generation are commemorating these very important events that have happened throughout history. I graduated high school in 1975—I do not mind telling people that—at a time when it was not so fashionable to commemorate Anzac Day. It was at a time when we had probably grown up commemorating it during our primary school years, but during our high school years, through the Vietnam War, it was not a cool thing to do. It seemed even at those times there was talk of the Anzac Parade not going ahead because people were losing interest in it—was it really something that we needed to commemorate? What we are now very pleased to see are the changes in society's attitude and the way that we view these things that have happened. It is growing in stature and has become one of the most important dates on our calendar. All of us in this chamber will no doubt be commemorating Anzac Day in any number of ways in the coming few days.

The words that are quite often spoken that you can see at the Anzac memorial in Canberra and also in Gallipoli, not far from Anzac Cove, are those words of Atatürk, where he talks about the "Johnnies and the Mehments" of

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the world lying in the soil of Turkey and that they are all sons of Turkey because that is where they lie. The words that I would like to share with you today are not Atatürk's words, because I think they are shared very often, but the words of Pericles. Pericles lived from 495 to 429 BC. The funeral oration that Pericles wrote for the Athenian soldiers who fell during the first year of the Peloponnesian wars are also very touching and poignant, so I would like to share those with the house as I conclude my contribution to this debate today. He wrote —

Each has won a glorious grave—not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity.

Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.

I think those words written over 2 000 years ago are still very relevant today. I want to mention that in my own family my father was a captain in the British Army during the Second World War and fought for his country very bravely at that time. He obviously survived, because here I am today.

In my own family, I also want to pay tribute to my nephew, Justin Woolcock, who saw active service in the Persian Gulf when he served with the Royal Australian Navy on HMAS *Darwin*, which sailed out of HMAS *Stirling*. I also want to comment, as you did in your contribution earlier, Madam Deputy President, that we need to very well look after our current and serving men and women from the armed forces. I know that today is not a day for me to go into this, but Justin was not treated well by the Navy during his service to his country, through circumstances, and his experience has scarred him. He wears his medals proudly. He marches on behalf of his country, but he still bears the scars of the way he was treated, which is something for later on.

I want to commemorate all of those brave men and women throughout ages who have given their lives for our country and, as others have said, “Lest we forget.”

HON ALYSSA HAYDEN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.10 pm]: I, too, like many members in this place would like to thank Hon Robyn McSweeney and Hon Sue Ellery for enabling us to stand in this place and honour the Anzacs. It is not often that we get to do this, unlike the other place, which finds time to stop and acknowledge special and significant events and dates. Maybe as a team that is something we ought to consider and try to do more often.

Like many of us here today, I often reflect on what Anzac Day means to me. I cannot imagine a different lifestyle or a different Australia, but I have often contemplated what it would be like if we had not had those brave men and women who went out and protected our country. I can share with members that I now no longer take our freedom or our society for granted. I cherish the way of life that we have and that we get to enjoy here in Australia. It makes me proud and thankful. I am thankful for the Anzacs who set the foundations for our national pride and the freedom and democracy that we all enjoy today.

I am part of a generation that has only ever experienced a nurturing community, a community that wants and encourages everyone to do their best and wants the best for them. It is our generation and the ones that follow who are the lucky ones. Those of us who have never faced conflict could never imagine the conditions, the sadness, the loneliness, the emptiness and the horror that these troops experienced. We are the ones who have benefited from the sacrifices made by so many young men and women and the families they left behind. We can never honour or thank them enough for their courage. We can thank Hon Robyn McSweeney and Hon Sue Ellery for allowing us to take this time today to do that.

The selfless sacrifices Australian service men and women made in World War I will never be forgotten. Time passes but Anzac Day is an important tradition. Like many Australians, and I am sure like many members in this chamber, my own grandfather and great-grandfather served in the British Army, and my grandmother's brother served in World War II. My great-uncle, Lionel Wallis, was a lance corporal and was one of the Rats of Tobruk. The siege of Tobruk in World War II lasted seven long months. It is almost impossible to imagine seven long months enduring the conditions, the bloodshed, the constant fighting, the constant loneliness and sadness, and fear of never coming home. Seven long months to people like us, as I said, is almost unbelievable. We should all be very proud of our heritage, and I am. We must ensure that the Anzac spirit that was founded in 1915 is not forgotten and passed on to our future generations.

This Anzac Day marks 100 years since the first convoy set sail from Albany carrying Australian and New Zealand troops to war. To honour those men and women and their families, the state government has worked with the federal government on a series of events. The highest profile element of this is the brand new National Anzac Centre, which has been highlighted in Hon Robyn McSweeney's motion. This project was led by the

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Department of the Premier and Cabinet and I, too, would like to congratulate Richard Muirhead, the state director for national commemorative events. This would have been no easy task and an extremely emotional one, as there were many local bodies that he would love to have included and incorporated, in making sure that every event was seen to and catered for appropriately. The great southern Anzac commemorative events committee was also formed, chaired by Gwyn Dolphin from Tourism WA, along with numerous local stakeholders. I thank each and every one of them for their contribution to make sure that this centenary has been honoured. These events have been going on for quite some time. I think the last one ends on the twenty-eighth of this month. This committee saw the creation and delivery of many different styles of events. It ensured that the large events, such as those that took place over the weekend of 31 October to 2 November 1914 in Albany—the harbour lights and reflections and commemorative concert—were held, but also they ensured we had the smaller-style events to enable all to participate.

As I said, the National Anzac Centre is the pinnacle of this centennial celebration. The centre has already welcomed over 32 000 visitors through its doors. It has also become a big attraction for our cruising industry, and cruise ships are calling into Albany port to enable passengers to disembark and participate in the heritage and history of Albany and to visit the National Anzac Centre. A few weeks back I was honoured to welcome an MSC cruise ship into Fremantle. This cruise ship took 2 200 Australians and New Zealanders to Gallipoli on what I believe would have been a very emotional journey. I found out through Facebook recently that quite a few friends are on board that ship, and through them I am getting to enjoy and experience the journey that they are currently taking. Their first port of call after leaving Fremantle was Albany, and 2 200 people getting off at the Albany port and making their way to the National Anzac Centre would have been a sight not to miss. They would have enjoyed the fantastic services that have been put on—the stories and history at this new centre. We have had quite a bit of feedback from the 32 000 people who have entered the centre, and it has been extremely positive, and quite overwhelming to be honest.

In closing, I congratulate all of those who have been involved in the many events that have taken place over the last 12 months in the lead-up to this Anzac Day. I also congratulate all the schools and RSLs around all our electorates. I know that all of us in this place will be attending more than one or two services over the next few days. I know that many people will turn up to these services. I know that Ellenbrook is expecting a record number of people to its dawn service. Hopefully, this year, being 100 years, will remind people of our Anzacs and that they will get up bright and early and continue to support Anzac Day, not just on its 100th anniversary but in the years to come.

I also remind members that Anzac Day is not just about our past Anzacs. We should also remember the women and men who are serving today, who are continuing to protect our way of life and our future. I would also like to remember and recognise the sacrifices their families make every day that they live their lives without them at home.

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [12.20 pm]: I would like to associate myself closely with the remarks of the many members who have spoken this morning in connection with the business before the house. I support the motion of Hon Robyn McSweeney acknowledging the new National Anzac Centre that has been created in Albany, because it is important that we have places like that. In every city, town and little hamlet, great and small, throughout Australia there has been at their centre, since the second or third decade of the last century, a memorial, big or small, that carries the names of those from the local district who served and died. Anyone who gets around to as many parts of Australia as a member of this place would be appalled in contemplating the scale of the tragedy that enveloped so many Australian families and communities during the Great War and, as we see on each of those memorials by the addendums, in subsequent conflicts as well. Those memorials have a range of functions. One of them is so the little children can see them as they get about and grow up and start to ask questions about why those memorials are there. Like Hon Ken Travers at the Mount Lawley RSL as a young scout or wolf cub and like me at 1st Fremantle Sea Scouts during dawn services, a person gradually acquires an understanding and respect for what it is all about. And so we need places like the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and the new National Anzac Centre in Albany so that people who ask what it is all about can experience a greater understanding of just what it is all about—the ongoing nature of warfare in Western Australian life and the way that conflict is visited and continues to be visited on every generation in some way, shape or form. We have already been reminded today that this is the sixty-fourth anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong where 600 men from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), in association with a Canadian battalion and some other elements, helped thwart the Chinese conquest of Seoul in Korea—that was 64 years ago today and tomorrow. There have been other occasions on which we have been reminded about today, have we not, about personal involvement, about the relationships of our relatives and our families with the Vietnam War, World War II or even the Boer War. We need to be reminded of all of these things.

Extract from *Hansard*

[COUNCIL — Thursday, 23 April 2015]

p2775b-2783a

Hon Robyn McSweeney; Hon Stephen Dawson; Hon Rick Mazza; Hon Liz Behjat; Hon Alyssa Hayden; Hon Simon O'Brien

I want to spare a thought in closing, as I add my support to this motion, to the words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the great Turkish hero and commander at Gallipoli, who later became Turkey's president. He said —

You who have shed your blood on the land of this country, English, French, Australian, New Zealander and Indian heroes. You are lying in the earth of a friendly country, therefore rest in peace. You are lying near and in the embrace of the Mehmeds of this country.

You the mothers, who sent your sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are at peace. Having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

We have all heard those words before and all been inspired by them, because all of us, as we observe from wherever our vantage point might be and whatever generation we belong to in the Australian experience can learn so much from that man. He is not an Australian, but I think we would all hold him out to be entitled to be an honorary one for that gesture, and that gesture alone. It amazes me, it makes me feel humble, when I note the leadership that that inaugural president of the modern Republic of Turkey displayed on so many occasions. Consider that an army, a mighty force, a massive force, had intended to invade some part of Australia and we had to fight tooth and nail to resist them, and ultimately grind it down to a stalemate and see them withdraw, but at the price of perhaps four times the casualties suffered by us as by the aggressors. Would we be holding out the hand of friendship now to those former invaders? Would we be facilitating their return to our soil year in and year out to commemorate the terrible events that happened? Would we be embracing them as brothers? Of course, it is a moot question. My answer is: I hope so, because the lesson that Mustafa Kemal gave to us, which I think is respected by every Australian who has ever heard it, is that we must learn something from the carnage of warfare after we have suffered it. We cannot walk away and say all of that bloodshed, all of that pain, all of that sacrifice was for nothing, because then we all lose. We must take something away when we pay such a terrible price. That is why we need places like the new National Anzac Centre in Albany, so that young Australians, and some older ones, can find out what price was paid, know why it was paid and hopefully learn some lessons, so we will approach international affairs and relationships between people of all nationalities, creeds and colours in a more constructive way in the future. I have members of my extended family, and certainly of my extended community, who know the pain of warfare and who understand and accept that if we value Australia, its community, its values and our place in it, sometimes we have to make terrible sacrifices, but it is important that we all take away something valuable to live by in the future—to make sure that those who have gone before us and paid the ultimate sacrifice did not die in vain. That is why I am delighted to see members on all sides in this house, as we do on such occasions at this time of year, give their unqualified support to the sentiments contained in the motions we have entertained this morning.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.