

Remembrance Day Speech

by

Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

City of Cockburn

11 November 2013

Good morning to our Veterans, our serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

At the 11th hour

Of the 11th Day

Of the 11th month

We will remember them

Lest we Forget

This statement will be read out thousands of times across Australia today, indeed across the world, as Australians and those who share in the dream of peace come together to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by thousands of men and women in the wars of times past.

We are reminded of these times through the media; from stories past down through the decades by the veterans themselves; from our own research and reading; and importantly; seeing the presence of our veterans at commemorative services, of them proudly marching in our streets wearing the medals that reflect their contribution to the war and peace keeping efforts, of school children writing and reciting the stories of their loved ones; and at the monuments and memorials that stand as poignant reminders in our communities.

Their sacrifices have meant that:

- We can hear the sounds of children laughing and playing in our homes, in outdoor areas and in our school playgrounds;

- People of all ages and abilities are able to go about their daily lives in a planned and orderly manner;
- We can travel overseas on an Australian passport that is highly regarded in most countries of the world;
- We can offer Australian citizenship to people from across the world, including those who have come from war torn countries - many of them crossing several borders before reaching the sanctity of relative safety;
- We can contribute to peace keeping efforts when required by the United Nations;
- We can raise funds in times of natural and man-made disasters demonstrating the generosity of our communities - that's the Aussie spirit that separates us from all other people.

It is the ANZAC spirit that continues to flow down through the generations; a spirit that ensures that we will always remember those who have given us the opportunity to raise our families, prosper in the good times, tighten our belts when we need to and share with our neighbours in what surely is; the Lucky Country.

This is the legacy left to us.

However, as we know, war is ever present.

And that is the reason why we must remain forever vigilant.

We owe it to those who made the ultimate sacrifice that impacted the lives of their families and friends forever more.

Lest We Forget.