



**BERT VAN MANEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE**

Speech - Park Ridge Water Tower

Deputy Speaker

Over the weekend the Park Ridge community marked the 50th anniversary of the Park Ridge Water Tower, with the unveiling of a new ANZAC mural, which now adorns the iconic structure, along the Mount Lindesay Highway.

The piece is entitled “Reflection Under Southern Stars” and depicts an ANZAC soldier and nurse, who are both reflecting on their service to their country under our national flag.

This location of the Water Tower has its own special place in our ANZAC history, with Park Ridge being home to an airfield during the Second World War.

The airstrip ran along what is now Chambers Flat Road, cutting through Park Ridge Road, being developed quite quickly in response to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour and their entry into the Pacific Theatre.

A stunning piece, the mural was created by artists Liang Rahner and Paul Turnbull, taking 10 weeks to complete.

It was delightful to see their children join in helping to cut the ribbon at the mural’s opening to the public.

The unveiling was a terrific event, which included performances by young local artists, Nate and Jasmine from Assorted Grains, who entertained the crowd with a range of Australian songs.

I was honoured to speak on the day, where I was joined by local councillor, Jacob Heremaia, who successfully advocated for the funding toward the project.

Congratulations to everyone involved on what is a fantastic addition to our local community.

Word Count: 239