

Mayor Bob Harvey's Speech – 2009 Anzac Day (11am service)

- Ninety-one years ago this year, the Great War, the First World War, came to an end after the greatest bloodbath the world had ever experienced.
- It ended not through defeat in battle – but because one side ran out of both men and money before the other. It could have gone either way.
- It is hard to conceive of that today. Europe, North America, and the Australians and New Zealanders had sent a whole generation of their youth to this war - until there was almost no-one left they could send.
- They can perhaps be excused for they knew not what they did. but afterwards they appeared to have learned a most terrible lesson. It was, they said, “the war to end all wars”
- Well we know it wasn't. It was not a peace treaty but an armistice. Marshal Foch said it was a 20 year truce.
- Then hostilities resumed. One that lasted longer, spread over more of the globe killing more human beings.
- Winston Churchill was prophetic in 1902 when he said “the wars of men will be infinitely worse than the wars of kings.”

- Our great legacy of those wars was the ANZACs and their deeds of everyday heroism that helped define us as a nation.
- Ordinary people plucked from ordinary lives, to undertake unimaginable and extra-ordinary things.
- We must never forget – and we will NEVER forget – the heroism of those ordinary men and women, who served this country – and the world community - in defence of freedom, democracy, humanity for future generations.
- We will never forget the heroism of those who fought to secure the freedom of South Korea, and of Malaysia – nor those who served in the most controversial war of all – Vietnam.
- Nor should we allow to go unrecognised the deeds of the more recent New Zealand personnel serving across the globe, protecting the peace and keeping safe those in need of protection.
- Unless we secure peace in the world every death, sacrifice, lost son or daughter, husband, wife or childhood friend was for nothing. Wasted.
- Thanks to them we have the privilege of peace and in thanks we dedicate ourselves - in their name - to peace.
- Let peace be their lasting memorial.
- Let peace be the mark of our gratitude.

- Waitakere City has declared itself a city for peace.
- We have joined a world wide fraternity of cities who have declared their commitment to peace.
- The years may pass, but the memories will never fade. What they mean to all of us here will change, and grow stronger in the years ahead.
- In our commitment to peace we will create a living memorial in our hearts that we can hand down from generation to generation
- In **this** way, we **will** remember them.