

ANZAC TRADITIONS



Rowan laying a wreath at Peterborough Remembrance Day 2017

The Dawn Service

The Dawn Service observed on ANZAC Day has its origins in an operational routine which is still performed by the Australian Army today.

The half light of dawn can play tricks on one's eyes. The half hour before dawn, with its grey and misty shadows, became one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were therefore woken before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons. This was and is still known as "stand-to". The operation was also repeated at sunset.

After World War I, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. With symbolic links to the dawn landing at Gallipoli, a dawn stand-to or ceremony became a common form of ANZAC Day remembrance during the 1920s. The first official Dawn Service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.

Poppies

Red poppies were the first signs of life in the fields of northern France and Belgium after World War I. Arising from the blood drenched ground, bright red poppies grew where four years of war led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, including 45,000 Australians.

The poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten the 102,729 Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts during the past 100 years.

Rosemary

The Ancient Greeks believed that rosemary made their memories stronger.

This idea continues today as people wear sprigs of rosemary symbolising remembrance for those who have died in war.

ANZAC Day Services

For information on ANZAC Day services in your area ring your local council.

The Korean War

Only five years after the end of the Second World War, Australia became involved in the Korean War. Personnel from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the Australian Regular Army (ARA) were committed soon after the war began and would serve for the next three years in the defence of South Korea. Australian troops participated in two major battles in 1951. Australian Forces remained in Korea as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force until 1957. Over 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, of which 340 were killed and over 1,216 wounded. A further 29 had become prisoners of war.



HOB4898 Korea. 16 March 1954. Private (Pte) Noel (Snow) Lyall, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), of Port Germein, S.A. Pte Lyall with a Bren gun.

The ANZAC Biscuit

Previously known as an ANZAC wafer or ANZAC tile, the ANZAC biscuit we know and love today is a far cry from what the ANZACs ate ninety years ago. The ANZAC biscuit was originally intended as a bread substitute for soldiers fighting in hostile conditions. The biscuit was made to have long shelf life, meaning it was notoriously hard; in fact, they often adopted the affectionate nickname of 'bullet-proof' biscuits!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of traditional rolled oats
- 1 cup of sifted plain flour
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- ¾ cup of desiccated coconut
- 125 grams of butter
- 1 tablespoon of golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons of boiling water
- 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate soda

Directions:

Combine rolled oats, sifted plain flour, caster sugar and desiccated coconut in a bowl.

Heat butter and golden syrup over a low heat until butter is melted.

Mix boiling water with bicarbonate soda and add to the butter mixture.

Stir into the dry ingredients.

Form the mixture into balls on a greased oven tray.

Press the balls flat and bake in a slow oven (150°) for twenty minutes or until golden brown.

Loosen the biscuits while still warm.

Allow to cool on tray.

ANZAC DAY Traditions and Symbols



For The Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again,
They sit no more at familiar tables of home,
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime,
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires and hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known.

As the stars are known to the night.
As the stars shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are stary in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

In 1914 Laurence Binyon wrote For the Fallen in honour of the many British troops who had already lost their lives on the Western Front of World War I. The fourth verse of the poem has long been used as a tribute to all casualties of war regardless of nation. It is known as the "Ode of Remembrance".

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The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

The Last Post

The Last Post historically has been used to signify the end of the day.

It is played during commemorative ceremonies to serve as a tribute to the dead.

Minutes Silence

One (or two) minutes silence is held to reflect on the significance of the day and as a sign of respect.

Reveille and Rouse

In major ceremonies, the Last Post is normally followed by Rouse except at the Dawn Service when Reveille is played. Historically Reveille woke the soldiers at Dawn.



IRON KNOB SOLDIER

Studio portrait of 5675 Private (Pte) George Herbert Roy Marshall, 27th Battalion. A hammer drilller from Iron Knob, SA prior to enlistment, Pte Marshall embarked with the 15th Reinforcements from Adelaide on H.M.A.T. Ballarat on 12th August 1916. Whilst serving in France he was killed in action on 6th March 1917, aged 24, and was buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery, France.



ANZAC DAY 2018



E01480 Men and pack mules rounding Idiot Corner, on Westhoek Ridge, in Belgium, moving up to the front line.

A newsletter from Rowan Ramsey MP

A MESSAGE from Rowan Ramsey MP



H11600 *Adelaide, South Australia. 1918-11. A huge crowd at Parliament House for the Declaration of the Signing of the Armistice.*

In September last year I was part of a delegation to the European Parliament which took us to Strasbourg and the Belgian capital Brussels. We were taken to Ypres' Menin Gates for the Last Post Ceremony which has occurred every night since Nov 11 1929. The only interruption being the German occupation in WWII when the ceremony was shifted to Brookwood Military Cemetery in England, returning on the day the town was liberated.

A very solemn service featuring four buglers and on this occasion, a particularly sad and moving violin recital which for me shed the tears of the 55,000 mothers of the Allied fallen whose children have no known graves and whose names are inscribed on marble walls of the Gates. Six thousand Australians are remembered there.

The next morning we visited some of the battlefields in the vicinity that featured so strongly in the interactions leading up to the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, including the Tyne Cot Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Messines and the only all Australian cemetery on the Western Front, Toronto Avenue.

It was a time of reflection on Australia's place in the world, our commitment to freedom and justice and the correct path for us to take in the modern world. ANZAC Day provides the same opportunity for all Australians as we remember all those who have served their country and continue to do so today. Lest We Forget.

12,000 Horses Sent Overseas During World War 1

The Australian Light Horseman featured heavily in the Middle East throughout WW1. Remembered best for their stunning mounted victory at Beersheeba the light horse combined the mobility of cavalry with the fighting skills of infantry. They usually fought dismounted, with rifles and bayonets.

The Light Horsemen relied on the hardy Waler breed which performed exceptionally in the harsh conditions. Horses need about 30 litres of water a day, however during the campaign they often had to survive up to 60 hours without water, while carrying a load of almost 130kg, comprising rider, saddle, equipment, food and water. They faced and often died under enemy fire, carried messages, the wounded, towed military artillery and ambulances.

At the end of the war Australia had thousands of surplus horses which could not be returned home for quarantine reasons. Some were sold, but many were destroyed.

No creature better symbolises the dependence of humans on the strength and resilience of animals in wartime.



PS0462 *Light Horsemen riding through Cairo in 1915.*

WWI - 1918



EO2735 *Lt General Sir John Monash, presenting bravery medals in the field.*

Germany surrendered on Nov 11th 1918 drawing the Great War to an end. Twenty million people were killed and twenty one million injured from all sides. The figures are sobering, 416,809 Australians enlisted from a population of just 5 million. 60,000 lost their lives with a further 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

Russian resistance collapsed early in the year and Germany mounted a final 'Spring Offensive' on the Western front with the Allies conceded areas and towns they had fought so hard to liberate the year before. Sixty three German divisions (15,000 troops per division) attacked over a 110km front. By late May German troops were just 80km from Paris.

By June the German offensive was stalled and the Allies regrouped to strike back. At this time General John Monash was promoted to Commander of the Australian Corps. The first major battle under his command was the re-capture of Le Hamel on July 4th just 3km from Villers-Bretonneux. His meticulous planning and understanding of the benefits of better teamwork between infantry, artillery and armour led to an astonishing victory in just 93 minutes where previously battles were typically bogged down for weeks. Use of wireless on the front line, medical

and ammunition supplies delivered by parachute drop and tanks, were adopted as standard procedure following the battle

Le Hamel was a turning point and the first of a string of allied victories and by November Germany surrendered ending the most lethal war in history. Twenty Nine Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians on the Western Front in 1918 and General Monash was knighted on the battlefield by King George V.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh month 1918 the Armistice was signed. The free world celebrated the end of "the war to end all wars", it remains one of the greatest human calamities.

After the war Monash was tasked with repatriating the Australian forces, a duty he performed with great dedication and resolve, ensuring troops in England waiting to come home had access to educational and vocational programmes. For the rest of his life he continued to serve the public. Australia will open the Sir John Monash Centre on the grounds of the Villers-Bretonneux Cemetery just before Anzac Day. It will form the hub of the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front.

AUSTRALIA'S ROLE in Various Conflicts

World War II - 1943 Seventy Five Years On

In the Pacific, while the Allies slowly got the upper-hand progress was slow, difficult and in terms of casualties, expensive. Early in the year the Japanese were evicted from Buna in New Guinea, but it wasn't until September that Lae was recaptured. Victory at Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands) and the battle of the Bismark Sea underlined the turn of the tide, however the war in Bougainville and Rabaul continued throughout the year as did the bombing of Darwin with the final of 64 raids occurring on November 12 1943.

Thai-Burma Railway

Despite the progress, Australia, British and other Allied forces were paying a horrific price for the huge losses of 1942. A total of 22,000 Australians had been captured by the Japanese, with one third of those to lose their lives at the hands of their captors, representing twenty percent of all Australian deaths in the war. Another 8,600 Australians were captured by Germany in the European theatre.

Tragically more than 13,000 Australian POW's were sent to work on the infamous 420km Thai-Burma Railway down the backbone of the extremely rugged Malay Peninsula. Of these more than 2,815 lost their lives. Wracked by malnutrition, cholera, malaria, dysentery and coping with the monsoon season, the starved POW's were beaten and tortured as construction fell behind schedule.

It was here that 'Weary Dunlop' (knighted for his services as a POW doctor) led a team which worked every day to convince their Japanese captors that sick and starving men were unable to work. In total 60,000 British, Australian and Dutch POW's worked on the line. A further 200,000 Asian labourers or 'Romusha' were either enticed or coerced into working as well.

Survivor Milton "Snow" Fairclough who passed away in 2016 remembered, "breakfast would be half a cup of liquidy rice with a lot of mice poo and maggots in that."



P00406.020 *Takanun, Thailand. c. 1943. Prisoners of war (POW) driving dog spikes in newly laid track along the Burma-Thailand railway. (Donor A. Seary)*

019187 *Three Army nurses who had been held by the Japanese since early 1942. Sisters L. Whyte of Hay, NSW; Jean Christopher of Kadina, S.A.; and Sister Jean McLellan of Dalby, Qld. telling ABC reporter Bill MacFarlane how happy they were to be free.*

HMAS Pirie

HMAS Pirie was one of sixty Australian Minesweepers built during World War II in Australian shipyards. HMAS Pirie was built in the Whyalla shipyards in 1941 and launched by Mrs Kleeman, the wife of the Whyalla Superintendent, Broken Hill Pty Ltd on December 3rd 1941.

Pirie was assigned to convoy escort duty operating between Queensland, New South Wales and New Guinea. She was subjected to a particularly determined attack by a large force of Japanese fighters and dive bombers off New Guinea in 1944 and experienced six very close misses and one direct hit killing seven men. After completing her war service in 1946 she sailed for Colombo destined for transfer to the Turkish Navy.

P01185.005 *Whyalla, S.A. 1946-01. HMAS Pirie (B249) leaving Whyalla.*

In the background can be seen cranes used for fitting out ships and on the distant hillside the town of Whyalla. (Donor J Lyall)



Afghanistan

Australia's Special Forces were involved in the war in Afghanistan for twelve difficult years and while war operations concluded in 2014 with completion of Operation Slipper, Australian personnel remain in the country training Afghan troops and building capacity to this day.

Our combined forces have demonstrated exceptional bravery in a hostile, harsh environment.

The mission in Afghanistan has been a test of our people and their capabilities, a time to put the skills for which they had been trained into practice. Their performance has been exemplary and they are held in the highest professional regard.

More than 26,000 Australian soldiers served in Afghanistan on Operation Slipper (2001-2014).

In more than a decade of operations, 41 Australian Army soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Many more were wounded, some physically and others mentally. We also saw countless acts of courage and bravery - our soldiers have received commendations, medals and awards for gallantry, including four Victoria Crosses, the first for an Australian in almost 40 years.

Australia has provided military support to the Coalition under the ANZUS treaty. This has included SAS and regular Army troops in Afghanistan itself; Boeing 707 refuelling aircraft based in Kyrgyzstan and F/A-18 Hornets based at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. In addition, RAN frigates Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra and Newcastle and amphibious troopships Kanimbla and Manoora provided support to the Coalition.

Australian ASLAV and a CH47 Chinook helicopter in support of operations.



LOCAL SERVICEMEN

The Potter Boys of Yongala

"I was stood next to him when I saw him shot through the head — death was instantaneous ... I thought the Canadians would bury him at Pozieres but I never saw his grave." September 3, 1916 Mouquet Farm, France.

This is Ralph Potter's account of his brother Hurtle's death by a German bullet through the head in the battle for Pozieres, 1916.

Hurtle was a young country lad from Yongala and he was just 22 years old. His brother Wilf, 25, had already been killed by a German sniper earlier that day. The following day the eldest brother Thomas also lost his life. All dead in the space of just 24 hours.

It was the tragedy of three Potter boys killed and one wounded within a period of three days on the battlefield in September 1916 that saw Australian armed forces introduce procedures to ensure that brothers should never again serve in the same unit.

Their farewell in 1915 from Yongala where they grew up, was a celebratory event with a proud community presenting the boys with gifts to take to the Great War.

Four of the five Potter boys stood proud and tall as they set off on their adventure.

But it was to be an horrific nightmare from which only one of the boys would return and he would forever carry the emotional and physical scars from the experience.

Eliza Potter's heart never healed from the grief of losing three of her sons and the impact of their deaths would be felt in that small community for decades to come.

More than a thousand people from around the district gathered at the Yongala railway station to welcome Ralph Potter when he came home, the only survivor of those four brave lads who set off just two years earlier.

The Australians first went into action on the Somme on 23 July 1916, and were ordered to capture the ruins of the village of Pozieres.

Three Australian divisions fought at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm from 23 July until 3 September when they were relieved. During these actions, collectively known as the Battle of the Somme, Australia suffered 23,000 casualties, of these 6,700 were killed including the three Potter boys.

The inscription on the monument at the 'Windmill Site' echo the words of war historian Charles Bean; "(this place) marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on Earth".

Research courtesy of Pam and Dennis Parker of Yongala.



The Potter boys, Hurtle, Thomas, Ralph and Wilfred preparing for their ill-fated journey to the Western Front. Only Ralph, injured in battle returned.



Clockwise from left: Hurtle Potter's Missing in Action advice, Report of the deaths of the three brothers, The inscription at the Australian War Memorial, Ralph's Enlistment form.

The Vietnam War (1962-1975)

The United States entered Vietnam to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam. Australia joined them in 1962. More than 50,000 Australians served in Vietnam. Over 3,000 were wounded and 521 died.

The battle of Long Tan in 1966 has come to symbolise the Australian effort in Vietnam and its anniversary on August 18th is now Vietnam Veteran's Day. However Australians were involved in a number of notable battles including Binh Ba, Coral/Balmoral and Operation Bribie.

The Vietnam War became very unpopular at home and our military, respected in the battlefield were sadly abused on their return to Australia. We continue to work today to right this wrong.



DNE/65/0055/VN *Bien Hoa, Vietnam. 1965-06. Private Barry Carter of Port Augusta, S.A (left) and Private John Smigowski of Geelong, Vic, in a dugout near the perimeter of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), positions.*