



# Poppies at the Memorial

## Transcript

Hi, my name is Lauren, welcome to the Australian War Memorial. We're here in Canberra on beautiful Ngunnawal country and I would like to pay my respects to the Ngunnawal elders past and present, but also pay my respects to the elders of the land from where you're joining us today. Well we're going to go on a short tour of the Memorial, to see some of the places where you might find a special flower called a poppy. The poppy is a symbol of remembrance, a flower to help us remember those who have served in times of war. Let's head on out to the Sculpture Gardens first.

The Flanders Fields Memorial Garden was opened in 2017. It helps us to remember the Australians who died in the First World War, especially those who lost their lives in Belgium. In the lands devastated by the fighting, bright red poppies grew. A Canadian soldier wrote a poem about them, called "In Flanders Fields", and the poppy soon became known as the flower of remembrance. Some of the soil in this garden has actually come from Flanders, and every year, the poppies bloom for all of us to see.

Outside, we can also see a sculpture here, called *Simpson and his donkey*, by Peter Corlett. Made in the 1980s, you can see that visitors like to place poppies here, to remember people like John Simpson Kirkpatrick, a stretcher bearer, and others like him, who have helped in times of war. Sometimes we find purple poppies here too. They help us to remember animals who have served in war, just like this donkey. What other animals do you know of, that have helped in times of war?

Here we have another sculpture with an animal. This is called *Elevation of the Senses*, by Ewen Coates. Made in 2015, people place poppies here to remember Explosive Detection Dogs and their handlers, who have served for Australia in places like Afghanistan.

Here in the Commemorative Area, is where you will see a huge amount of poppies. Some grow in the gardens, but most have been placed in to the Roll of Honour. This is where we remember over 102,000 men and women who have died serving for Australia. Many different visitors have come to remember their loved ones, by placing a poppy next to their name. These are usually made out of fabric, and sometimes we see homemade poppies that have been knitted or crafted.

# Craft instructions

You might like to make your own poppy too. I am going to show you how to make a simple paper poppy. Here are some things you'll need:

- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Paper
- Tissue paper
- Pens
- Buttons
- Poppy template

1. Trace the poppy template on to the paper and cut it out
2. Repeat step one, with the tissue paper. If you fold the tissue paper over, you will get several layers at once
3. Put a small hole in the middle of all of the poppy pieces. You can fold them over gently and use scissors to make a cut in the middle
4. Push a pipe cleaner through your paper poppy, and then the tissue paper pieces
5. Thread the top of the pipe cleaner through a button. You can thread it through a second button hole to help keep it in place
6. Scrunch the tissue paper pieces if you would like to give the poppy some more texture

Thank you for joining us today to find out how to make a poppy. I've got a couple of other ones here that I want to share with you. One is made out of purple paper, and the purple poppy is used to symbolise animals in war. The last one here, is another red poppy. It is made out of beautiful soft feathers. This was made by an Aboriginal artist, Aunty Glenda Nicholls. So three different ways to remember those who have served. We hope that you might be able to visit us here in Canberra one time, to see all of the different poppies here at the Memorial. Bye!

# Images from the Memorial's collection



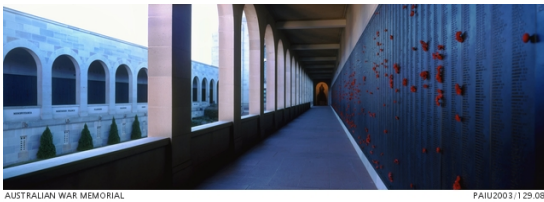
Flanders Fields Memorial Garden, 2017  
<https://www.awm.gov.au/about/our-work/projects/flanders-fields-memorial-garden>



Peter Corlett and Meridian Sculpture Founders, *Simpson and his donkey*, 1915, (1987-1988, bronze, 235 x 135 x 194 cm. AWM ART40993)



Ewen Coates, *Elevation of the senses*, (2015, bronze, 195 x 85 x 285 cm. AWM ART96850)



Roll of Honour, 2003,  
AWM PAIU2003/129.08

# Poppy template

Figure 1

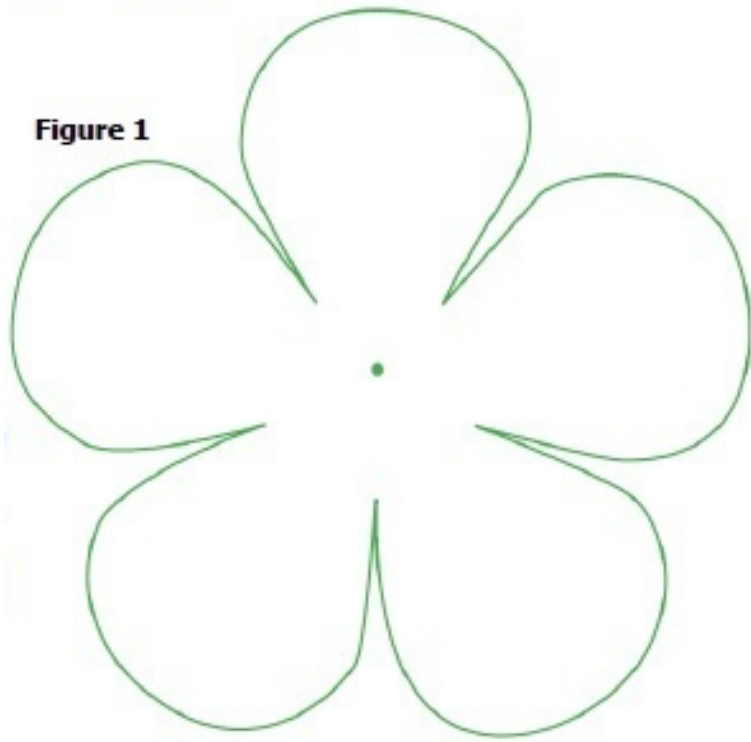


Figure 1

