



REMEMBRANCE DAY

2023 NATIONAL CEREMONY

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 10.45 AM



Welcome to the Australian War Memorial on Remembrance Day 2023, commemorating the 105th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the First World War.

Order of Service

Arrival

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and
Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Catafalque Party

Australia's Federation Guard

Playing of the Didgeridoo

The didgeridoo – known by the Yolngu of North East Arnhem Land as the *yidaki* – is not traditionally played in Ngunnawal country. It will be played here today with the permission of the Traditional Custodians to pay respect to those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have taken part in the defence of Australia, part of a long and ongoing tradition of defending Country.

The Ode

Major General Greg Melick AO RFD FANZCN SC (Retd)

National President

Returned and Services League of Australia



The Last Post

One minute's silence

The Rouse

Response

Lest we forget

Commemorative Address

Lieutenant General Natasha Fox AO CSC

Chief of Personnel

Australian Defence Force



Laying of Wreaths

Wreaths will be laid by the following or their representative:

- The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- The Prime Minister of Australia
- The Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The President of the Senate
- The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia
- The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
- The Leader of the Federal Opposition
- The Chief of the Defence Force
- The Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial
- The National President of the Returned and Services League of Australia
- The National President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association
- The National President of the Naval Association of Australia
- The National President of the Air Force Association
- The National President of the Australian War Widows Incorporated
- The National President of the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women
- The Chairman of Legacy Australia, and Legacy Youth

Musical Performance – *In Flanders Fields*

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon



National Anthem

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.*

Following the ceremony, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, accompanied by the official party, will lay floral tributes at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

This national ceremony is held in the nation's capital on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal peoples.

We acknowledge and pay respects to the past, present, and future Elders and Traditional Custodians of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We value their contribution to the life of our city and to the Canberra region.

Acknowledgements

Master of Ceremonies, Mr Scott Bevan

Didgeridoo (Yidaki) player, Corporal Tarryn Roach

Australia's Federation Guard

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon

Visiting the galleries and Commemorative Area

The Memorial will open at 1 pm for registered visitors.

For further information visit awm.gov.au

Last Post Ceremony

At the end of each day the Last Post Ceremony is conducted in the Memorial's Commemorative Area. Each ceremony honours one of the more than 103,000 servicemen and servicewomen whose names appear on the Roll of Honour.

As traditionally occurs on 11 November, the eulogy for the Unknown Australian Soldier, first delivered by the Honourable Paul Keating in 1993, will be read at today's ceremony at 4.45 pm.

To register to attend, or to view the Last Post Ceremony live on the Memorial's YouTube channel or Facebook page visit awm.gov.au

The Unknown Australian Soldier

Today marks the 30th anniversary of the interment of the Unknown Australian Soldier, who represents all Australians who have been killed in war. At the head of the tomb are the words, “Known unto God”, and at the foot, “He is all of them and he is one of us.”

Plans to honour an unknown Australian soldier were first put forward in the 1920s, but it was not until 1993 that one was at last brought home. To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the remains of the soldier were recovered from Adelaide Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and transported to Australia. After lying in state in King’s Hall in Old Parliament House, the Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in the Hall of Memory at the Memorial on 11 November 1993. He was buried with a bayonet and a sprig of wattle in a Tasmanian blackwood coffin, and soil from Pozières was scattered in his tomb.



Image: Ray McJannett PAIU1993/260.16

