



REMEMBRANCE DAY

2024 NATIONAL CEREMONY

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 10.40 AM



Welcome to the Australian War Memorial on Remembrance Day 2024, commemorating the 106th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the First World War.

Order of Service

Arrival

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and
His Excellency Mr Simeon Beckett SC

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 people 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

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, 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.*

The Last Post

One minute's silence

The Rouse

Response

Lest we forget

Commemorative Address

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Laying of Wreaths

Musical Performance – *In Flanders Fields*

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae

Laying of poppies

Students representing the youth of Australia

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.*

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

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

We acknowledge and pay our 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

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 4.30 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 Flanders poppy has long been a part of Remembrance Day, the ritual that marks the Armistice of 11 November 1918, and is also increasingly being used as part of Anzac Day observances.

During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem "In Flanders fields". In English literature of the nineteenth century, poppies had symbolised sleep or a state of oblivion; in the literature of the First World War a new, more powerful symbolism was attached to the poppy: the sacrifice of shed blood.



Image: Kenneth Macqueen (1897–1960), *Wild poppies, Mont Kemmel* (c. 1917–18, watercolour on paper, 11.9 x 17.6cm) AWM ART93950. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by the Macqueen family in 2009

