

Anzac Day Service Social Situation



What Is Anzac Day?

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance that commemorates Australian and New Zealand soldiers, service men and women. It happens each year on 25th April.



In 1915, a large number of Australian and New Zealand soldiers died during the battle in Gallipoli. They fought bravely for long, hard days. The courage, discipline and mateship they displayed during this time are now known as the 'Anzac legend'.

Did you know...?

ANZAC stands for Australian And New Zealand Army Corps

How Is Anzac Day Commemorated?



dawn services



poppies



Anzac biscuits



paying respect



parades

Parades

Anzac Day is commemorated with marches and parades. These happen in cities and towns across Australia and New Zealand. Many community groups and organisations join the parades and march together in their units. Members of these groups and others joining the march might wear medals their relatives received for their service. These are worn on the right side of the chest.

During these marches, people often hand out rosemary. This is a symbol of remembrance as wild rosemary grew in Gallipoli, where the soldiers fought.



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Parades

You might see people in the parades carrying flags. They might carry the flag of Australia, the flag of the state they live in or a flag or banner that represents their group or organisation.

Many service men and women join Anzac Day parades. These people may have been Naval Officers, Army, Air Force and Medical Staff or had other important roles during wartime.



If you are marching in a parade for your unit on Anzac Day, it is important to wear your Girl Guides uniform to show you are representing the Girl Guides. You may also be asked to do things like carry a banner, hand out rosemary sprigs or water, support veterans during the march and help cook or serve for events held after the march.

Anzac Day Services

One of the ways Anzac Day is commemorated is an Anzac Day service. These services often occur at dawn on the morning of Anzac Day. They can also occur during the day on Anzac Day.



Word Fact

Dawn is the time when light from the sun begins to appear in the sky.

What Happens at a Dawn Service?

This is the order of service for a typical Anzac Day dawn service. Different services may have some changes. This can depend on where the service is. For example, a service at your school may have only some of these official parts.

Flags are lowered to half mast

Welcome speech

Mounting of catafalque

Hymns/music

Reading of prayers or poems

Official address

Wreath laying

The Ode of Remembrance

The Last Post

Reveille or Rouse

National Anthem

Dismounting of catafalque

Closing remarks

Official guests depart



Speeches

There will be an official welcome and speeches during the service. They will welcome all the official members to the service. They will also share something about Anzac Day.

When people are speaking, it is respectful to listen.



Listening may look different for everyone. Some people might need to quietly move their hands and feet or have something to fiddle with in their hands to listen.

Soldiers

At the beginning of the service, past and present army members might come to the front.

In some services, the catafalque party (pronounced cat-a-falk) will form a guard around the cenotaph or memorial.

The soldiers will be wearing their army uniforms and may be holding guns. The guns are part of their uniform and are used for official reasons only.



Did you know...?

The word cenotaph means 'empty tomb'. Anzac cenotaphs and war memorials are seen throughout Australia and New Zealand to remember all the soldiers who died in the war.

Hymns and Music



If you know the words, you can quietly sing along to the hymns that are played. If you don't know them, that's OK. You can just listen.



Prayers and Poems

At the service, someone may say a prayer for the soldiers and their families. Sometimes people will read a poem about Anzac Day or the soldiers at war.

Wreath Laying

During this part of the service, people can walk to the cenotaph or memorial and place down a wreath. There might be music playing quietly in the background during this time.

The speaker will announce the official members or organisations and they will walk over and place down their wreaths when called. After the official people have laid their wreaths, others can place down theirs.

If you are laying an official wreath for the Girl Guides, you will need to listen and wait to be called. Then you can put the wreath down at the front of the cenotaph or memorial.



Photo courtesy of John (GillianVann/Shutterstock.com) girl guides laying Anzac day wreath= - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

The Ode of Remembrance



If you are sitting down, the speaker will ask you to stand for the Ode of Remembrance. The speaker will say the Ode. When the speaker has finished, the people in the crowd will reply, 'We will remember them. Lest we forget.'

The Last Post

This is a musical call that is played on the bugle. It was played during the war to notify the soldiers of the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at a soldier's funeral to send them to their final resting place and at Anzac and Remembrance Day services.

The sound of the bugle might be different or loud.



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One Minute's Silence



Immediately after the last post, will be one minute's silence. This is a time where people can reflect and remember the soldiers who went to war.

You should not talk during this time of silence and you should try your best not to make any noise.

The Reveille or Rouse

These are bugle calls that will be played to signify the end of the minute's silence.

The rouse was traditionally used to call soldiers to their duties.

The reveille means to 'wake up.' During the war, it was played in the mornings to wake up the soldiers. It is now played in commemoration of fallen soldiers to signify their awakening in a new life.

National Anthems



After the bugle calls, you there will hear the national anthem of Australia. If you know the words, you can quietly sing along to the anthem. Sometimes the anthem of New Zealand may also be played. This is because soldiers and service people from Australia and New Zealand fought together.

Fun Fact

The national anthem of Australia is called, 'Advance Australia Fair'. It was written by Scottish-born Australian Peter Dodds McCormick. It was first performed in Sydney in 1978 and was officially made the national anthem in 1984.

End of the Service

After the national anthems have been sung, the speaker will order the catafalque party to dismount. This means they will leave their official positions guarding the cenotaph or memorial.

They will then thank everyone and share any information that is needed.



If there are official members attending the service, including past soldiers and service men and women, they will be asked to leave the service first.

Once they have left, the rest of the people can leave too.

Things You Might See



soldiers



cenotaph or
memorial



poppies



wreaths



lots of people

Things You Might Hear



bugle calls



a speaker or presenter



poems and prayers



songs or music



a crowd of people talking

Things to Remember

If you need a break, it is OK to quietly leave and go somewhere else.

It's OK to bring something quiet with you that might help you to concentrate and listen.

An Anzac Day service is a significant time for many people. It is important to try your best to be respectful during the service.

You can watch past Anzac Day services on the Internet or watch the live stream of Anzac morning on your television.

