

**Veteran Community
Aged Care
Wreath laying
Ceremony**

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day – 25 April – is the day Australians remember the original landing on Gallipoli in 1915.

The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

In the lead-up to ANZAC Day, we are happy to host this special ceremony for all local residents of aged care facilities.

Laying of wreaths and flowers

Flowers have traditionally been laid on graves and memorials in memory of the dead.

Laurel and rosemary have been associated with remembrance. In ancient times, laurel was used as a symbol of honour, and was woven into a wreath by the Romans to crown victors.

Poppies and rosemary continue to be used in wreaths.

Last Post/Silence/Rouse

The Last Post is a bugle call which signals the end of the day.

It became incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the

duty of the dead is over and that they can rest in peace.

The Rouse signifies that after the period of mourning life and duty continue. (Reveille is played at dawn.)

Order of Service

WELCOME REMARKS

[A prominent community member welcomes participants. Eg. An RSL leader, Vietnam Veteran, local counsellor or Member of Parliament]

CALL TO COMMEMORATION

[By the minister, pastor or chaplain]

As we prepare for our special day, let us remember those who died in the service of their country.

*They went with songs to 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.*

From Laurence Binyon's "For the fallen"

We know love by this, that he lay down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

1 John 3:16

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

[The commemorative address could be said by a local community member. If this occurs, it is suggested that the minister, pastor or chaplain give a short talk or focussing comment]

POEM: IN FLANDERS FIELDS

[Could be read by a young member of the Community such as a guest school student or by a veteran.]

*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

HYMN:

[Suggestions include Amazing Grace, The Lord's My Shepherd, God Our Help In Ages Past]

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

[Led by the minister, pastor or chaplain]

Our Father God, we remember before You all who have lived and died in the service of mankind, especially those who have given their lives in the service of their country. We give thanks for their courage, their devotion to duty, and their sacrifice of life itself, so that our nation may live in peace and freedom. Amen.

LAYING OF WREATHS

THE ODE

[Led by a community member]

*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.*

Response - *We will remember them.*

THE LAST POST

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

ROUSE

Lest we forget.

Response - *Lest we forget*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young 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.*

THANKS AND FAREWELL

