

# 2018 ANZAC Day Information

## Preface

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The aim of the Commemoration March was determined in 1925 by the Anzac Day Commemoration Council (ADCC) under General Sir John Monash as:

*“To enable returned servicemen to re-form the ranks of their wartime units and march to the Cenotaph as a mark of respect for their fallen comrades”*

## General Outline

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The aim of the Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemoration activities under the auspices of the current ADCC is designed “to enable returned servicemen to re-form the ranks of their wartime units and march to the Cenotaph as a mark of respect for their fallen comrades”.

Descendants of veterans are encouraged and welcomed to participate, but they are requested not to march in front of veterans.

The March is also an opportunity for the general public to honour and recognise those who have served and who currently serve in the defence of Australia or its interests, especially remembering those who paid the supreme sacrifice or otherwise suffered as a result of their service.

## Dawn Service

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The service will commence at 6.00am at the Shrine of Remembrance. Parking is restricted and it is recommended that you catch public transport. There will be six screens around the Shrine to enable participants to view the proceedings.

## Gunfire Breakfast

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A traditional Gunfire Breakfast will again be served on St Kilda Road in front of Victoria Barracks immediately at the conclusion of the Dawn Service. The breakfast, comprising baked beans, sausage and bread plus brew, is provided by the Australian Defence Force School of Catering. There will be a gold coin donation to attend the breakfast that will go to the RSL’s Veteran’s Welfare.

## Commemoration March

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The purpose of these guidelines is to remind RSL Sub-Branch members, Unit Association members and members of the general public of the criteria, as agreed by the ADCC, for participating in the Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemoration March. It is important that this information is distributed as widely as possible.

There are three ways by which an individual can participate in the March:

1. As a former, or current, member of the Australian Defence Force;
2. As a Veteran of a Commonwealth or Allied Force, and
3. As a descendant of an Australian, Commonwealth or Allied Veteran and who are wearing the campaign medals of their forebears on their right chest.

The Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemoration March is not a parade and therefore no vehicle, animal, weaponry or memorabilia (including historical uniforms) may be included without the prior approval of the March organisers. Escorts to Colours etc., and catafalque parties may carry arms.

## Australian Veterans

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Veteran eligibility to march is based on the criteria to become a Service Member of the RSL i.e., any person who has served in the Australian Defence Force for a period in excess of six months. Veterans should assemble with one of the service units or association of which they were/are a member. The choice of where to march is a personal one however, it is recommended that those who served together should march together, as an act of remembrance and mateship. As a duty of care, all World War 2 Veterans are required to use a vehicle.

## Descendants of Australian Veterans

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A descendant of a veteran may participate in the March as a carer (one per veteran participating in the March), banner party or flag carrier, regardless of whether they are entitled to be a member of the RSL or not. Descendants, other than the above, will be directed to march in a place of prominence in front of the Commonwealth and Allies contingent. One descendant only of a veteran may honour their relatives service by wearing his/her medals on their right breast. Dress of all descendants should reflect the occasion and the display of photos or other memorabilia and the pushing of prams and pushers **is not** permitted.

## Commonwealth and Allied Veterans

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Veterans should be clearly identifiable by their campaign medals and should be at the head of each national group. No medals or awards earned from a nation that was in conflict with Australia or the Commonwealth shall be worn in the Melbourne ANZAC Day March. Dress should reflect the occasion i.e. traditional/national costume or dress (including headdress) is not appropriate. Commonwealth and Allied contingents will form up in accordance with the Order of March and under the direction of the March Marshals. Displays of foreign national flags are restricted to 1 per group. Flags of a nation that were used when that nation was in conflict with the Commonwealth or Australia **are not** permitted to be displayed. Display of historical flags or ensigns of countries that no longer exist is inappropriate. Banners are restricted to 1 per group and are not to contain any political slogans.

## Descendants of Commonwealth and Allied Veterans

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Descendants of veterans are encouraged to participate to honour the fallen at the express invitation of the contingent leader/organiser. Descendants are to march **behind** the veterans within the national group. Once again, dress should reflect the occasion i.e. traditional/national costume or dress (including headdress) is inappropriate. The national group may have no more than 30 descendants of veterans participate, including banner party and flag bearers. The display of photos or other memorabilia and the pushing of prams and pushers **is not** permitted.

## Veterans who are unable to March

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There are two services available for Veterans who are unable to march:

- 1) RACV sponsored vehicles: This vehicle service, provided by RACV volunteers at the beginning of the March (if your Association has not contacted you contact ANZAC House for bookings). The service provides: pick-up from the Veteran's home of the Veteran and Carer; transportation to the City of Melbourne Assembly Area and thence to the Shrine of Remembrance; seated under cover for the March, and then transported home.
- 2) Vehicles participating in the March: As a duty-of-care, all WW2 Veterans are required to be in a vehicle. For other Veterans, if you think you will have difficulty completing the March, you are

encouraged to request transport support through your Association (if your Association has not contacted you contact ANZAC House for bookings). Veterans travelling in vehicles must remain in the vehicle until the March is completed. The vehicles, which are generously provided by RACV and Car Club volunteers, will be positioned at strategic points in the Assembly Area to provide the uplift of all WW2 veterans.

Vehicles transporting the veterans will travel immediately behind the respective grouped Service and Division Banners for WW2 and Unit/Association banner, as applicable.

## **Assembly**

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March participants should be in their allocated Assembly Area at least **40 minutes** prior to the expected time for their formation to step-off. Participants will need to be aware of the Metro Rail Tunnel project in the CBD. The Project Managers are working closely with the March Organisers to ensure minimal disruption to the March and the Assembly Area.

## **Order of March**

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[Link to Order of March](#)

## **Dress**

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As the ANZAC Day March is an Act of Remembrance and Commemoration, **dress should reflect the dignity of the occasion**. Children accompanying adults should be of an age to be able to complete the March, and dressed appropriately.

## **Security**

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VicPol will be delivering a police response similar to 2017. Obviously, further reviews and assessments will be made to ensure another safe and successful ANZAC Day in Melbourne.

## **First Aid**

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St John's Ambulance first aid points and Ambulance Victoria MICA Personnel will be located in the Assembly Area, along St Kilda Road, the Shrine Forecourt and the dispersal point.

## **Dismissal of Marchers**

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Formations/Units are to be dismissed after they have marched passed the flag poles on the eastern side of the Shrine Forecourt. They are requested to move well clear of the dismissal area after they have completed the March. Refreshments will be provided by the Salvation Army prior to proceeding to the Commemoration Service at the conclusion of the March.

## **Commemoration Service**

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There will be a short Commemoration Service and Reflection led by the State President of the RSL and addressed by the Governor of Victoria the Honourable Linda Dessau AM.

## **Summary**

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The vast majority of Australians know the significance of ANZAC Day, but it is very important that we explain its significance to those people whose forebears did not serve, or who are relatively new residents of Australia. ANZAC Day is a day of respect for our war dead and for people who served and

died to preserve our way of life. It is also about reflecting on those Australian values and attributes which we hold dear.

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