



SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH UPDATE

No. 2/2017

Policy

This update is to remind sub-Branch and Association members of the criteria for participating in the Sydney ANZAC Day March and provide some general guidelines. Once again it is important that this information is disseminated as widely as possible.

There are three ways by which an individual can participate in the March: (i) as an Australian veteran, (ii) as the descendant of an Australian veteran (iii) as a veteran or descendant of a Commonwealth or Allied force.

We ask that people keep an eye on the RSL NSW website and encourage all associations to register to receive these updates.

Australian Veteran

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 at least 6 months. Veterans should assemble with one of the service units 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.

Descendant of an Australian Veteran

A descendant of a veteran can march with veterans as a carer (one per veteran marching), banner party or flag carrier regardless of whether they are entitled to be a member of the RSL or not. All other descendants are invited to march with the descendants associations in a place of prominence in front of the Commonwealth and Allies contingent. One descendant only of a deceased veteran may honour their relatives service by wearing his/her medals on their right breast.

Commonwealth or Allied Veteran/Descendant Veterans

Veterans should be clearly identifiable by their campaign medals and should be at the head of each national group.

No medals or awards earned whilst a nation was in conflict with Australia or the Commonwealth shall be worn in the Sydney ANZAC Day March.

Dress should reflect the occasion i.e. traditional/national costume or dress (including headdress) is not appropriate.

Both the British Commonwealth and Allied contingents will form up in alphabetical order as printed in the March Broadsheet and under the direction of the March Marshals. Displays of foreign national flags are restricted to 1 per group.

No flag of a nation that was used when that nation was in conflict with the Commonwealth or Australia is 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. The display of photos or other memorabilia is not permitted.

Descendants of Allied Veterans

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.

General Policies

Veterans who are unable to march should make use of the taxi service provided at the beginning of the March (contact ANZAC House for bookings).

The Sydney ANZAC Day 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. Otherwise service contingents should only carry arms when authorised by the ANZAC Day March Executive Committee c/- ANZAC House.

As the head of each unit approaches the ANZAC Memorial, hats are to be removed (by following the unit leader's movements or by order) and the right hand held over the heart and kept in that position until the unit is clear of the ANZAC Memorial, when the reverse is to be followed.

Heads are to be turned left towards the ANZAC Memorial when passing it. Banners and Flags are to be dipped. Defence Force formations are to salute the ANZAC Memorial as they pass it.