



STARTING A NEW CENTURY OF ANZAC OBSERVANCE

On Anzac Day 1916 more than 4000 soldiers who had been repatriated after seeing action at Gallipoli marched through the streets of Sydney. Those who couldn't march were carried in open cars and ambulances. An estimated 60,000 people turned out in the Domain to give thanks at the commemoration service.

“As we start another century of Anzac Day observance, I hope the people of New South Wales will again declare their support for the men and women who have served in our nation's defence forces, by attending the many services to be held throughout our State,” said Mr Rod White, NSW State President of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

“In Sydney it has been traditional for families to line Martin Place and George Street to cheer those who take part in the March, and I would remind everyone that because of the light rail construction, we will now be marching along Elizabeth Street and past the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park.”

The March will commence, as usual, at 9.00 am and will be followed by the Commemoration Service at the Anzac Memorial at 12.30pm. For many thousands the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph has become the focal point of Anzac Day and this will not be affected by construction work in George Street and for those able to attend the traditional Sunset Service at the Cenotaph.

Mr White encouraged people to attend local services on Anzac Day, and a list of these can be found on the RSL website www.rslnsw.org.au/anzacservices

“I've been pleasantly surprised in recent years to see thousands of people, including families with small children, attending Dawn Services at locations such as North Bondi, Blacktown and Hornsby,” said Mr White.

“For those who have difficulty getting into the city for that early start, think about attending a service nearer to home.”

Mr White said Anzac Day is not just about reflecting on events of 100 years ago but also about caring for young Australians who have served in recent conflicts.

“We must not forget that 33,000 men and women served in Afghanistan and already almost 4000 of them are struggling with physical and mental health problems. We can all help them by buying and wearing an RSL Anzac Day badge because all funds raised go to assist veterans and their families.”

ENDS

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