



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Commemoration Service

Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South

10.40am for 11am
Friday, 31st May 2024

LEST WE FORGET



Honouring the Spirit

Yininmadyemi Memorial

Arrival of the Vice Regal Party

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC,
Governor of NSW

Vice Regal Salute

Introduction by Master of Ceremonies

Warrant Officer Stephen Weaver AM (Wiradjuri)
Royal Australian Air Force

Traditional Smoking Ceremony

Welcome to Country

Uncle Allen Madden (Gadigal)

Welcome Dance

“Walanbaa” performed by members of the
NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company

Mounting of the Catafalque Party

Australia’s Federation Guard

Bible Reading and Opening Prayer

Chaplain Lief Fungalei
Australian Army

The Coloured Digger

The 1942 poem written by Sapper, H.E. “Bert” Beros, NX6925, RAE, 2nd AIF, while on active service at Donadabu Rest Camp, Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea, tells the story of the bravery of his mate, Private West, an Aboriginal, who attacked a Japanese machine-gun pit single-handedly.

Recited by Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC,
Governor of NSW

*He came and joined the colours,
When the War God's anvil rang,
He took up modern weapons
To replace his boomerang,
He waited for no call-up,
He didn't need a push,
He came in from the stations
And the townships of the bush.*

*He helped when help was wanting,
Just because he wasn't deaf;
He is right amongst the columns
Of the fighting A.I.F.
He is always there when wanted,
With his Owen gun or Bren,
He is in the forward area,
The place where men are men.*

*He proved he's still a warrior,
In action not afraid,
He faced the blasting red-hot fire
From mortar and grenade;
He didn't mind when food was low,
And we were getting thin,
He didn't growl or worry then,
He'd cheer us with his grin.*

*He'd heard us talk Democracy –
They preach it to his face –
Yet knows that in our Federal House
There's no one of his race.
He feels we push his kinsmen out,
Where cities do not reach,
And Parliament has yet to hear
The abo's maiden speech.*

*One day he'll leave the Army,
Then join the League he shall,
And he hopes we'll give a better deal
To the aboriginal.*





Commemorative Address

Squadron Leader Patricia Thompson (Kunja)
Senior Indigenous Liaison Officer
Royal Australian Air Force

Wreath laid by Community Elders

Assisted by Alex Walker and Chenelle Carr
International Grammar School

Wreath Laying

Music provided by Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney
accompanied by the Didgeridoo

During this period all are invited to
engage in silent thoughts or prayer

THE ODE

Mr Harry Allie AM BEM (Gudjala)
accompanied by the Didgeridoo

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

Lest We Forget

LAST POST

Able Seaman Phil Edey

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

REVEILLE

Able Seaman Phil Edey

Benediction

Chaplain Lief Fungalei
Australian Army

Australian National Anthem

Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney accompanied
by Able Seaman Marni Edmonds and Sydney
Catholic Schools Goodjarga Choir

Dharawal Language

*Nyini Australiagal budjari garibara
Nyini budjari buriga
Budjari bamul yararaga mari walaba
Bamulga mari walanmirang
Bamul merong mari kaban walaba
Budjajarang waratah
Yanamura Australiagal
Yanamura Australigal
Yana budjari Australiagal
Nyini bayala gawuwi bayala gawuwi
Yana budjari Australiagal.*

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

Catalfalque Party Dismounts

Departure of the Vice Regal Party

Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC,
Governor of NSW

Vice Regal Salute



The organising committee would like to thank:

Trustees and staff of the Anzac Memorial, City of Sydney, Australian Defence Force, Australia's Federation Guard, 4/3 Royal NSW Regiment, Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney, WOFF Stephen Weaver AM, NSW Police, St John Ambulance, Matthew Doyle, Deegan Hunter, TMA Group and Impress Colour.



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Australian Government
Defence


ANZAC MEMORIAL
HYDE PARK SYDNEY



2024 marks the 18th annual NSW ceremony commemorating the service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans.

The year on year increasing importance of this ceremony as the major NSW event honouring former and current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans grows with the number of people that attend to show their respect and to say, "Thank you for your service".

The organising committee especially acknowledges the support of successive Governors of New South Wales, Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC.

The organising committee thanks previous keynote speakers for their service and for being such strong role models for our youth:

2007	Mr Harry Buckley
2008	Mr Norman Laing LLB
2009	LCDR Bert Slape OAM RAN
2010	SQNLDR Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver
2011	LT Dr Beimop Tapim RAN
2012	CAPT Chloe Dray
2013	FSGT Don Taylor
2014	LS Lateika Smith RAN
2015	WO1 Col Watego
2016	Mr David Williams RAN (Ret'd)
2017	FSGT Patricia Withers
2018	PTE Wayne Fourmile
2019	CPO Tina Elliott
2020	(not held)
2021	WGCDR Jonathan Lilley
2022	LTCOL James Sinclair
2023	LCDR Sam Sheppard





Program proudly produced by TMA Group and Impress Colour

