



## **Australia and New Zealand commemorate ANZAC Day: Media release**

ANZAC Day, 25 April, is a day of national remembrance for Australia and New Zealand.

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) forces at Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915, marking the start of an eight month campaign which resulted in significant casualties and great hardships.

Every year since 1916, Australians and New Zealanders have gathered together in solidarity on 25 April to honour the sacrifice, courage and mateship of the original ANZACs. Today, ANZAC Day also honours the service personnel who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions, and our allies and partners who have served alongside them.



“On ANZAC Day, we pause to remember the contributions made by our service personnel and their families, who have displayed great courage, discipline and self-sacrifice in choosing a life of service to their country,” said the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Ms Heidi Bootle.

“We reflect on the devastating impacts of wars and conflicts across the globe, including in the Pacific during World War II and today in Ukraine where Russia’s unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion has caused immense suffering and senseless loss of human life.

“We reinforce our commitment to stand side by side with our allies, partners and Pacific Family, including New Zealand and Vanuatu, and safeguard the rules-based international order so our future generations can enjoy the freedoms and values that our service personnel have sacrificed so much to protect,” said High Commissioner Bootle.

More than 8,000 Australians and 2,700 New Zealanders lost their lives during the Gallipoli campaign. Their courage, endurance and mateship forged a spirit and legend that lives on today and binds Australia and New Zealand together.

“ANZAC Day is a time for all of us to pause and reflect on the horror of war, and those who have suffered because of it. To remember those whose lives have been lost, our veterans, our armed services personnel, families of the fallen, and refugee communities. Ka maumahara tonu tatou ki a ratou – we will remember them,” said the New Zealand High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Ms Nicola Simmonds.

“In Vanuatu it is also a time to reflect on the challenges, past, present, and future for the Pacific region. Global challenges like climate change and COVID-19 will increase tensions if strong action is not taken. A united region, brought together by common values and shared experiences, is essential to do so and to prevent future conflict,” said High Commissioner Simmonds.

In 2022, due to the COVID-19 situation in Efate, the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions will hold a private ceremony in Port Vila with the Vanuatu Police Force. Members of the public are welcome to watch a livestream of this service at 5:30am on VBTC, and to visit the cenotaph throughout the day to place a tribute and take a quiet moment to reflect.

All are invited to watch the ANZAC Day Dawn Service live from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, which will commence at 6.30am Vanuatu time. This service will be livestreamed on the Australian War Memorial Facebook page and broadcast on Telsat Broadband Vanuatu Channel 2 (ABC Australia).

In New Zealand, both the Dawn Service and the National Commemoration will be broadcast live by TVNZ 1 and RNZ National. The Dawn Service will begin at 7am Vanuatu time, and the National Commemoration will begin at 12 noon Vanuatu time.

**Lest we forget.**

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