

## Anzac Day 2024



The Anzac acronym comes from the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, into which Australian and New Zealand troops were formed in Egypt before the landings at Gallipoli in April 1915.

### History of Anzac Day

Anzac Day as we know it was first observed on 25 April 1916, as people came together to honour those lost at Gallipoli. In Australia, some state governments organised events to commemorate the occasion—but the Commonwealth, other than naming the day as Anzac Day, did not.



Anzac Day procession through the streets of Brisbane, 1916

By the late 1920s, Anzac Day was a public holiday in every state and territory. In the 1930s, there was rhetoric about the need to pass the 'Anzac spirit' down to the next generation. This was partly politically motivated, as there was a feeling that people needed steeling for another war. In the Second World War, the 'sons of the Anzacs' were welcomed, and the day now honoured veterans of all wars.

In the 1980s and 1990 the RSL had been slow to welcome 'others'—notably those who did not serve overseas, including most ex-servicewomen, and veterans of the 'small' wars.

### The Dawn Service

The first commemorative event of Anzac Day is the Dawn Service at 4.30 am. This is about the time men of the ANZAC approached the Gallipoli beach. However, the origin is the traditional 'stand-to', in which troops would be woken so that by the first rays of dawn they were in position and alert, in case of an enemy attack in the eerie half-light. It is a ritual and a moment remembered by many veterans.





### **Gunfire breakfast**

Many communities follow the dawn service with a 'traditional' gunfire breakfast. 'Gunfire' is a British tradition and was comprises whatever is available at the time—it could be 'coffee and rum' or 'stew, sausage and bread', or even 'bacon and eggs' (which is served by the War Memorial for their 'gunfire breakfast' on Anzac Day).



### Anzac Day march

From cities to small towns, the march has long been the centrepiece of Anzac Day. Marches were held during the Great War, and became popular with veterans in the 1920s, to honour lost friends and publicly express comradeship. The RSL organises the marches. While it was traditional for veterans who saw active service, it was later relaxed to include those who served in Australia in the armed services or 'land armies' during the Second World War. It has been relaxed further, with some encouragement or acceptance of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren marching, to assist aged veterans or to represent relatives. Former soldiers including Poles from allied armies have also been allowed to march.

### Sydney Anzac Day 2024 - Poles





**Brisbane Anzac Day 2024 - Poles**

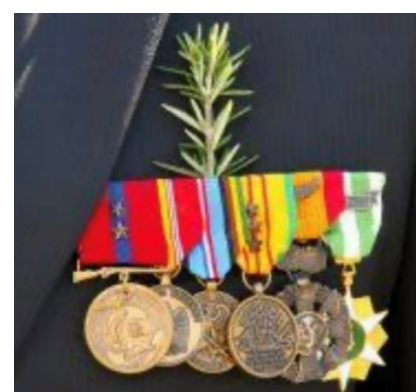


**Lake Macquarie Anzac Day 2024 - Poles**



### **Wearing medals**

Only the person awarded or issued medals may claim those medals as his or her own. He or she wears the medals on their left breast. Others (those who did not earn the medals) may honour the service of a relative by wearing medals on the right breast. Some veterans may be seen wearing medals on both breasts—their own on the left, and a relative on the right.



### **Wearing rosemary**

Rosemary is an emblem of remembrance. It is traditional on Anzac Day to wear a sprig of rosemary pinned to a coat lapel or to the breast (it does not matter which side, but left seems most common), or held in place by medals. Rosemary has particular significance for Australians on Anzac Day as it grows wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



### **Laying a wreath or flowers**

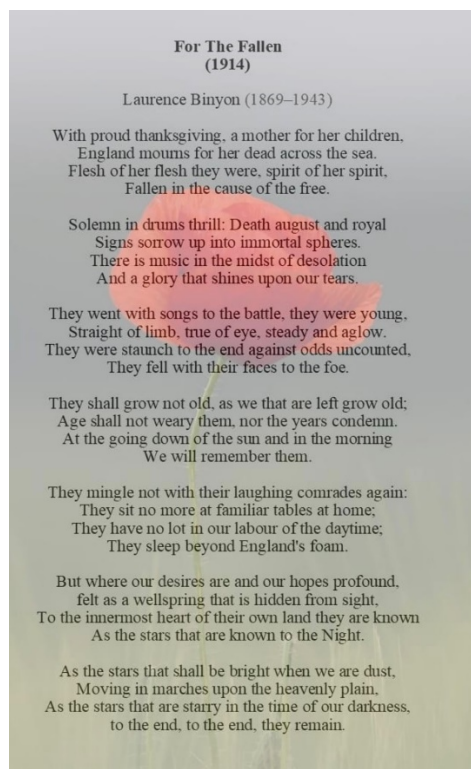
A wreath or a small bunch of flowers is traditionally laid on memorials or graves in memory of the dead. They might contain laurel, a traditional symbol of honour, and rosemary, or they may be native or other flowers. In recent years, it has also become popular to lay a wreath of red poppies—formerly associated with Remembrance Day, 11 November. Any of these wreaths or flowers are acceptable as a gesture of remembrance.





### The Ode

The Ode comes from the fourth stanza of the poem *For the Fallen* by the English poet and writer, Laurence Binyon. It was published in London in *The Winnowing Fan: Poems of the Great War* in 1914. It was used in association with commemorative services in Australia by 1921.



At the Anzac Day ceremony, an invited speaker often recites **The Ode** and upon his or her completion of the recitation, those present repeat the last words 'We will remember them'. After a short pause this is followed by 'Lest we forget'.

### The Last Post

Traditionally, it marked the end of the day. The Last Post was incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and that they can rest in peace. On Anzac



Day, it is followed by one or two minutes of silence, then a second bugle call, Reveille (also known as The Rouse).

<https://fb.watch/rIbavLGe0I/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

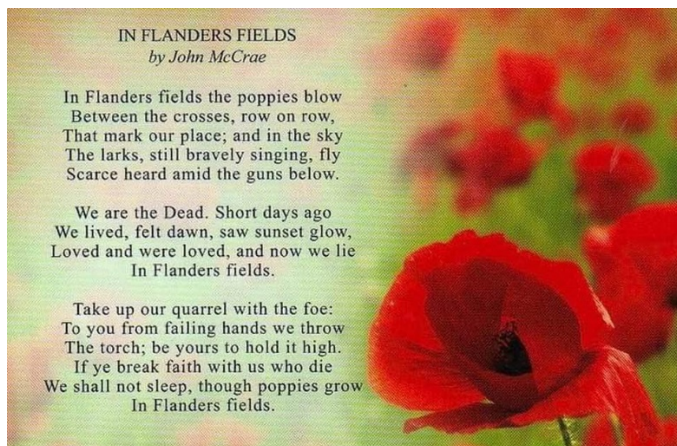
### The Anzac biscuit

The original **Anzac biscuit**, also known as the Anzac wafer or tile, was a hardtack biscuit or long shelf-life biscuit substitute for bread. These biscuits were sent by wives and women's groups to soldiers abroad because the ingredients do not spoil easily, and the biscuits kept well during naval transportation.



### Poetry

The text of famous *In Flanders Fields* poem is below.



### Author:



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Translation: MZ

**Photos:** Public domain and D&B Piotrowski

**Sources:** The Anzac Day Tradition – Australian War Memorial <https://www.awn.gov.au>

Anzac Day Key facts: Key Facts that form Anzac Legend you may not know. The Daily Telegraph – <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au>