

## ANZAC DAY 2015 – MELBOURNE DAWN SERVICE AND MARCH

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, ANZAC Day will be marked as the Centenary of ANZAC, one of the most significant national commemorations since Federation. Around Victoria there will be commemorative services and marches in places large and small, and in Melbourne the main focus will be on the Shrine of Remembrance.

On this website is information on **commemorative services and marches** which in most places are being organised by local RSL Sub-Branches. All Victorians are encouraged to attend your local commemorative service and support the spirit of ANZAC and those who march on ANZAC Day, as Veterans or serving Defence Force personnel.

At the Shrine of Remembrance large numbers are expected for the Dawn Service which commences at 6:00 a.m. and all those wishing to attend should plan on arriving at the Shrine precinct between 4:00-5:00 a.m. Details on detours and road closures which will apply to assist in the conduct of the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March, and Public Transport arrangements which will apply on ANZAC Day, particularly to assist in movement to and from the Shrine and CBD will be posted on this website as soon as finalised. Screens will be established around the Shrine precinct to enable those that don't have a direct sightline to the Shrine Forecourt to follow the Dawn Service.

The narration that occurs prior to the commencement of the Dawn Service, will be delivered by the MC, Peter Meehan, at the Shrine commencing from 5:45 a.m. The Dawn Service will conclude at approximately 6:30 a.m., immediately after which a traditional Gunfire Breakfast will be served on the lawns in front of Victoria Barracks, directly opposite the Shrine precinct. As St Kilda Road will be closed to all vehicle traffic by this time, Dawn Service attendees will be able to move readily to the breakfast and a gold coin donation is encouraged to assist the RSL in their Veteran support activities.

### The Melbourne ANZAC Day March

A special feature of the 2015 March will be the place reserved in the March for the descendants of Australians and New Zealanders who served in WW1.

The March of Medals is intended to allow all families with those links, to have one family member, wearing the medals of their forebear, to march in place of that WW1 ANZAC. Only those descendants wearing the WW1 medal group of a WW1 serviceman or woman will be able to join the March of Medals contingent. Those medals should be worn on the right breast, as required by protocol. Only the actual person awarded medals can wear them on the left hand side. All descendants are expected to wear suitable attire and follow the **ANZAC Day March protocols**, and the ANZAC Day Marshals will arrange descendants in divisions that will march eight abreast, in a formal way, thereby recreating some of the atmosphere of the large marches in Melbourne in the 1920s and 30s, where WW1 Veterans marched in massive numbers. All those descendants who intend to participate are encouraged to register their intention to participate. This registration portal will be through the Victorian Government ANZAC Centenary website, which also carries all information on the Dawn Service and March, at [www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au](http://www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au). Please note that you will not be issued a ticket or other entry pass as a result of registration.

This registration is primarily to assist in estimating the numbers likely to be involved for both planning and logistics purposes. The criteria for participating will not be registration but to be at the forming up places identified for the WW1 descendant contingent at least 30 minutes prior to the stepping off time, and wearing the WW1 medals, of your WW1 forebear.

The **Assembly Plan for the March**, with the locations to form up, and the stepping off times, is available on this website. All those intending to participate whether as Veterans, or in the WW1 March of Medals descendant contingent should study this information carefully. Adherence to the Assembly Plan and the timings will assist the March Marshals to deliver a well organised March that runs to time and will avoid frustration on the part of participants.

The March of Medals contingent that comprise the WW1 descendants will be formed into three divisions, one for WW1 Navy, and then two divisions for WW1 Army, or 1<sup>st</sup> AIF.

They will be led by specially formed contingents of serving Navy and Army personnel, complemented by groups wearing the military uniforms of that era.

The ANZAC Day March will conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m., with WW1 descendants being halted on the Shrine forecourt, immediately below the main steps that lead up to the Shrine entrance. The Official Commemorative Service, led by HE the Governor will then commence, with the Governor addressing, in particular the Veterans who participate in the March, and for 2015, the WW1 descendants present.

This Service will conclude at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Descendants of WW1 servicemen and women from other Commonwealth or Allied countries, such as the U.K., India, Pakistan, South Africa, Canada, the United States or France are also urged to participate in the 2015 March. You will find on the March Assembly Plan the location of the various National Commonwealth/Allied contingents and WW1 descendants are encouraged to join them. Again the WW1 medals you wear must be worn on the right breast and the usual March protocols in terms of dress and behaviour must be observed, and only one descendant per WW1 Veteran should march.

Descendants of those who fought in the Turkish contingents at Gallipoli are warmly encouraged to march, observing the same protocols set out above. The Turkish RSL Sub-Branch has a special place in the March, as set out in the Assembly Plan, and these WW1 descendants are requested to concentrate at this point to participate in the March.

All Marchers must be formally attired and obey the directions of March Marshals.

The 2015 ANZAC Day March in Melbourne will have some special aspects but importantly the March remains primarily a March for Veterans and serving ADF personnel, it is not a procession or a parade. Accordingly, only one carer for a disabled or elderly Veteran should be marching and as already indicated only one family descendant per deceased Veteran should be marching. All WW2 Veterans participating will ride in vehicles provided for them.

