



In 2020, Australia marks 75 years since Victory in the Pacific and the end of the Second World War.

Across Australia, crowds gathered in the thousands in cities and towns to celebrate the end of the conflict and to commemorate the men and women who served so bravely.

15 August 1945 was declared a public holiday and celebrations continued into the evening – shops were closed, but theatres, dance halls and pubs remained open.

For many in Australia the end of the war in the Pacific was marked by celebration. For others it was a day of sombre commemoration and relief. For those who had lost loved ones, the cost was high – almost 40,000 Australians had been killed out of around one million who had served.

This year we also mark the 105th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. In the fire of battle they forged the Anzac spirit which endures in the bravery of the Australian Defence Force to this day.

Fifty years ago, Australia began to wind down its military effort in Vietnam with the departure of the 8th Battalion. Australians continued to serve in this theatre until December 1972 in an advisory capacity.

Australians continue to serve with distinction in conflict and peacekeeping around the world and this Anzac Day we commemorate more than a century of service.

For those who served in the Second World War, thank you for your service and all you did to protect our shores.

To learn more about the Anzacs, please visit anzacportal.dva.gov.au

Kind regards,

ALEX HAWKE MP
Federal Member for Mitchell

ANZAC DAY

Saturday, 25 April 2020



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Source: Courier Mail 16 August 1945. Retrieved 18/02/2020 from the NLA.



A member of the WAAAF (Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force) kissing a policeman at VP Day (Victory in the Pacific) celebrations in Melbourne.

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The VP Day Girl

Lois Anne Drew (nee Martin) grew up in Richmond, Victoria. During the Second World War she worked at the Kodak Factory in Abbotsford.

With Germany defeated and Victory in Europe Day marked on 8 May 1945, Australia waited hopefully for Victory in the Pacific.

The celebrations on VP Day on August 15 were joyous and chaotic. In major cities and towns across Australia thousands of people flocked to the streets to dance and sing, including Lois. In preparation for this day, Lois knitted this vest and wore it at celebrations in Melbourne.

Lois was identified as the woman in this photo when the *Herald Sun* printed it in August 1995 to help find her. Lois' husband Bill identified her and showed the knitted vest as proof.

Lois' vest is now on display in the Second World War Gallery at the Australian War Memorial.



AWM - P02018.226

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop AC CMG OBE

Edward Ernest Dunlop was born on 12 July 1907 at Major's Plain, Victoria, the second of two children for his parents James and Alice (nee Payne).

Dunlop studied medicine at the University of Melbourne on a scholarship where he was nicknamed "Weary", from Dunlop tyres.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Dunlop enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps (6th Division) on 13 November 1939, having previously served in part-time service.

He was in command of No.1 Allied General Hospital at Bandoeng when Java fell, and he became a prisoner of war.

In 1943 he was transferred to Thailand and worked on the Burma-Thailand railway. He remained there until the war ended, labouring tirelessly to save wounded, sick and malnourished men. Many times he put his own life at risk as he stood up to the brutality of his captors.

After returning home he married his wife Helen and they had two sons. He established a successful medical practice while also maintaining a passion for the health and welfare of former POWs.

Dunlop died at his home on 2 July 1993. Over 10,000 people witnessed his State Funeral, attesting to his great public respect and popularity.



AWM - 117362



State and territory Returned and Services Leagues (RSLs) have made the difficult decision to cancel local Anzac Day services on 25 April 2020.

While many of us mark Anzac Day by attending a dawn service or visiting the local RSL, only a selection of dawn services will be held across the country, which the public have been asked not to attend.

This decision has not been made lightly and has taken into consideration concerns about the welfare of Australians and slowing the spread of coronavirus.

Governments are committed to working with the RSL and other veteran and community organisations on how we best commemorate Anzac Day this year.

On 25 April 2020 I encourage you to join me in honouring those who have served our nation by watching the national Anzac Day service to be broadcast from the Australian War Memorial.

And if you know someone who has served in the Australian Defence Force, get in contact and let them know you're thinking of them.

As a nation and as a community, we have a responsibility to ensure we will always remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have served our nation in times of war, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and the more than 102,000 who have died as a result.

Let We Forget

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how the Australian Government is responding to the spread of coronavirus please visit australia.gov.au