

Traditions

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day in Australia is an occasion to commemorate and remember all Australians who have died as a result of war.

Australia Day

On 26 January each year, Australians come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about our country, and to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of.

Dawn Service

During battle, the half-light of dawn was one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were woken in the dark before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons; this is still known as the 'stand-to'.

The Dawn Service is not an Army specific ceremony. It is a public ceremony normally conducted by the Returned and Services League of Australia with involvement across all three Services of the Australian Defence Force. The origins of the Dawn Service are not entirely clear and research is currently being undertaken by Australian military historians to ascertain the true beginnings of the Dawn Service.

The Last Post

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

The Significance of Silence

Silence for one or two minutes is included in ANZAC and Remembrance Day

ceremonies as a sign of respect and a time for reflection.

Two minutes silence was first observed in Australia on the first anniversary of the Armistice and continues to be observed on Remembrance Day, 11 November. Over the years, the two minute silence has also been incorporated into ANZAC Day and other commemorative ceremonies.

At league clubs around Australia, the remembrance silence has become part of the now nightly six o'clock (previously nine o'clock) ritual, when any light other than a memorial flame is dimmed, members stand in silence and then recite the Ode.

In recent times, one minute of silence has been observed at Australian commemorative events, such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. The reason behind this change is largely unknown.

The Rouse and the Reveille

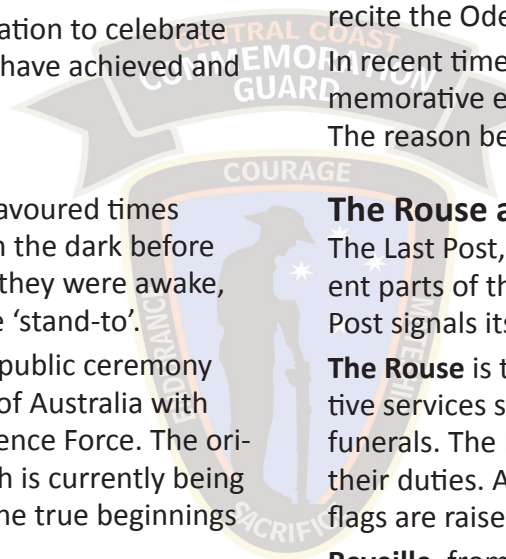
The Last Post, The Rouse and Reveille are bugle calls played to signify different parts of the day. While Reveille signals the start of a soldier's day, the Last Post signals its end. Rouse

The Rouse is the call used in conjunction with the Last Post at commemorative services such as Remembrance Day, at dedication services and at military funerals. The Rouse is a short bugle call that was also used to call soldiers to their duties. After the one minute silence, the Rouse is sounded during which flags are raised from half mast to the masthead.

Reveille, from the French word 'reveillez', meaning to 'wake-up', was originally played as a drum beat just prior to daybreak.

Its purpose is to wake up the sleeping soldiers and to let the sentries know that they could cease challenging. It was also a signal to open the town gates and let out the horse guard, allowing them to do a reconnaissance of the immediate area beyond the walls.

During the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, the Last Post is sounded followed by a minute of silence. The silence is broken by the Reveille. Today, the Reveille is only performed on the various Dawn services or as the first call of the day in Barracks.



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The Ode

The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in the Winnowing Fan; Poems of the Great War in 1914. The verse, which became the League Ode, was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921.

“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.”

In Flanders Fields

In most ceremonies of remembrance there is a reading of an appropriate poem designed to help the listener understand the experiences of service people and their relatives in wartime.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Red Poppy

The Red Poppy has special significance for Australians.

Worn on Remembrance Day (11 November) each year, the red poppies were among the first to flower in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium in the First World War. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground.

In England in 1919, the British Legion sought an emblem that would honour the dead and help the living. The Red Poppy was adopted as that emblem and since then has been accepted as the Emblem of Remembrance.

Australians wear a Red Poppy on Remembrance Day for three reasons. Firstly, in memory of the sacred dead who rest in Flanders' Fields. Secondly, to keep alive the memories of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives; and thirdly, as a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of all Allied nations and in respect for France, our common battleground.

Slouch Hat

The slouch hat is an object strongly associated with Australian identity.

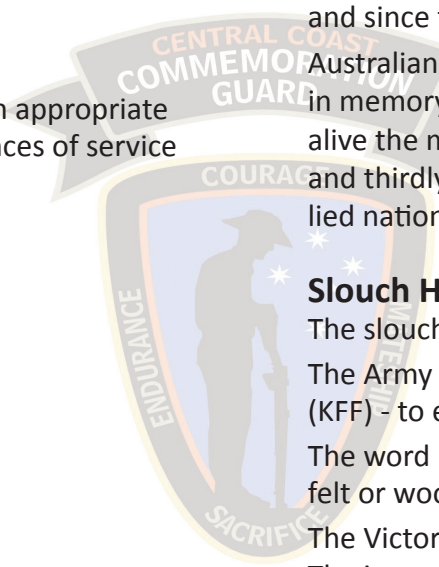
The Army refers to the slouch hat by its official designation; Hat khaki fur felt (KFF) - to everyone else it is a 'Slouch Hat'.

The word 'slouch' refers to the sloping brim. The brim is made from rabbit-fur felt or wool felt and is always worn with a puggaree.

The Victorian hat was an ordinary bush felt hat turned up on the right side. The intention of turning up the right side of the hat was to ensure it would not be caught during the drill movement of "shoulder arms" from "order arms".

The Slouch Hat became standard issue headgear in 1903 and its brim position was mostly standardised. The slouch hat became a famous symbol of the Australian fighting man during World War One and continued to be worn throughout World War Two. Its use since that time has made it a national symbol.

The term 'puggaree' originates from the Hindu word, 'Pagri,' meaning a



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turban or thin scarf of muslin. Intended for insulation, the puggaree was a traditional Indian head-wrap, adapted by the British for headdress worn in hot, sunny regions.

During World War One (1914-1918) a plain khaki cloth band was worn and this practice continued until compulsory training was suspended in 1929.

During World War Two, a flat type of band was issued. Troops who were on active service in the Middle East at the time introduced a folded puggaree as a distinguishing mark of active service.

The current puggaree has seven pleats, one for each state and one for the Australian Territories. It is made from light khaki coloured cotton and is worn on the slouch hat with a unit colour patch sewn on the right side.

ANZAC Biscuit

During World War One, the friends and families of soldiers and community groups sent food to the fighting men. Due to the time delays in getting food items to the front lines, they had to send food that would remain edible, without refrigeration, for long periods of time that retained high nutritional value; the Anzac biscuit met this need.

Although there are variations, the basic ingredients are: rolled oats, sugar, plain flour, coconut, butter, golden syrup or treacle, bi-carbonate of soda, and boiling water.

The biscuit was first known as the Soldiers' Biscuit. The current name, Anzac Biscuit, has as much to do with Australia's desire to recognise the Anzac tradition and the Anzac biscuit as part of the staple diet at Gallipoli.



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