We are here today to honour all Australians who have served our country in times of war and conflict, in particular the original Anzacs who landed on the shores of Gallipoli 100 years ago on 25 April 1915. Since then, 25 April has been known as ‘Anzac Day’, and Australians and New Zealanders take time on this day to remember those who served, and honour the sacrifices they made in our country’s name. You may have seen the Anzac Day posters around our school. These show Australians landing on beaches of Gallipoli on that first Anzac Day.

ANZAC – these five letters stand for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and the men who were in that corps came to be known as ‘Anzacs’. In 1915 the Anzacs, together with British, Indian and French soldiers, were sent to fight on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. Australians from all kinds of backgrounds served during the First World War. They wore the same uniform and shared the experience of war. Their story, the Anzac story, is one that unites all Australians, regardless of their background.

Local Content:
You may wish to include a story of someone from your school or local community who has served Australia in the First World War, in particular during the Gallipoli campaign.

Local Anzac
You can include the following information as part of your address:
- name of veteran
- links to your local community (school/local area)
- career before enlistment
- service branch – army, navy, air force, nursing etc.
- dates of service
- age at enlistment
- whether they received any medals for bravery
- whether they survived the conflict
- where they served overseas; and
- any other interesting information.

Find a First World War service record of someone who was born or enlisted in your local community by using the Discovering Anzacs website developed by the National Archives of Australia.


Poppy/Rosemary
There are many ways to honour people who have served in Australia’s armed forces. We can attend school services, like this one, wake up early for a dawn service or attend an Anzac Day march. We can also honour their service by wearing a poppy or a sprig of rosemary, as a symbol of remembrance.
As the ceremony ends you will hear a bugle play the Last Post. This piece of music was originally played in military camps to mark the end of each day and announce that all soldiers should be at rest. It is now part of many memorial services to symbolise that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace. One minute of silence follows the Last Post. During this time you may like to close your eyes and think about all the men and women who have served Australia in times of war and conflict and about those who have died.

Between 2014 and 2018, Australia will remember all those who have served in our military over the last 100 years, since the First World War. This special period of commemoration will be known as the Anzac Centenary.