



**ANZAC Day Dawn Service**  
**Saturday 25th April 2026**

March Participants assemble at cnr Albert Avenue  
and Victor Street. March commences at 4.45am.

Dawn Service commences at 5am  
Garden of Remembrance, Chatswood

Master of Ceremonies: Mr Barney Flanagan OAM



**LEST WE FORGET**

# Order of Commemoration

## **Pre Dawn Service Music and Seating**

## **Posting of Catafalque Party and Flag Attendant**

By courtesy of "A" company, 2/17 Royal NSW Regiment

## **Dawn Service March of Ex-Servicemen and Women**

Led by Willoughby City Band and Marshal Mr Garry Brigden

## **Song - We Are Australian**

Chatswood High School Senior Vocal Ensemble

## **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

Mr Barney Flanagan OAM, Master of Ceremonies

We are here today to pay our respects to those brave men and women who fought not only in WWI but in all conflicts and recognise the sacrifice that thousands of men and women have made in defence of our democracy.

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather here today and pay my respects to elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people here today.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

David Sutcliffe, Team Leader, The Salvation Army, Northside Chatswood

## **Solo - The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23)**

Mrs Rhys Kitto, Soloist, Willoughby City Band

## **Laying of Official Wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice**

Flowers of the Forest  
Mr Stuart Robertson, Piper

## **Prologue**

Mr Garry Brigden, Deputy President, Chatswood RSL Club

As the first rays of dawn on the 25th of April touch the horizon, small and large groups of Australians around the world will gather in quiet reflection to honour the courage and sacrifice of the service men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, for the freedoms we have today.

Marked by the dawn's early light, this day is not just a commemoration of battles fought by the original Anzacs so long ago at Gallipoli, half a world away from home.

This day also serves to remind us of the ongoing legacy of service that has been continued by those who followed ever since and has shaped our nation.

Even today, there are members of the ADF on duty around the globe on operational deployment or United Nations peacekeeping activities.

Their selflessness and determination, their courage shown in the face of adversity, and their commitment to their mates and to our country, are values on show by all veterans who have served our nation.

We hold them all in the highest regard.

As we silently stand together this morning, let us reflect on their enduring spirit and express our gratitude for their service and sacrifices.

We also acknowledge the families who awaited their return, the communities who supported them and their families, and to the fallen who did not return.

Today, we honour them all with respect, with remembrance and with our eternal gratitude.

All gave some, Some gave all - Lest we forget.

## **Hymn - O God Our Help in Ages Past** (sung by all)

Led by Soloist, Mrs Rhys Kitto, Willoughby City Band

O God, our Help in ages past,  
Our Hope for years to come,  
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our Eternal Home.

O God, our Help in ages past,  
Our Hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our Guard while life shall last.  
And our Eternal Home.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Her Worship The Mayor of Willoughby, Councillor Tanya Taylor

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, by whose mercy the souls of the faithful rest in peace, we remember with thanksgiving, those heroic Servicemen and Women who made the supreme sacrifice for us in times of war. We pray that their suffering and the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## **ANZAC Commemoration Address**

Milan Shad-Sharpe and Malak Abdelrahman, Willoughby Girls High School

### **Hymn - The Recessional** Willoughby City Band (sung by all)

God of our Fathers, known of old, Lord of our far flung battle line,  
Beneath Whose awful hand we hold Dominion over palm and pine;  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget - Lest we forget!  
The tumult and the shouting dies. The captains and the kings depart,  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, an humble and a contrite heart;  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet. Lest we forget - Lest we forget!

### **Let us Commemorate The Fallen**

Mr Craig Murray, President, Chatswood RSL Club

O Lord, Thou lover of souls. Who through the mouth of Thy Prophet of old has declared that all souls are Thine: We thank Thee for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefield in the War or succumbed to the perils of the deep or of the air. We bless Thee for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our Commonwealth who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness. In Thy hands, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. Grant us to follow their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may with them be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life.

### **Solo - Abide With Me**

Mrs Rhys Kitto, Soloist, Willoughby City Band

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

## **Ode - To The Fallen**

Mr Barney Flanagan OAM, President, Chatswood RSL Sub-Branch

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

**Response - "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"**  
**- Pause -**  
**"LEST WE FORGET"**

## **The Last Post**

Matthew Hyam, Bugler, Willoughby City Band

## **Silence**

## **Reveille**

Matthew Hyam, Bugler, Willoughby City Band

## **National Anthem - Advance Australia Fair**

Chatswood High School Senior Vocal Ensemble

Accompanied by Willoughby City Band

(sung by all)

## **The Benediction**

David Sutcliffe, Team Leader, The Salvation Army, Northside Chatswood

## **Dismount Catafalque Party**

## **March-Off, Dispersal**

**All attendees are invited for refreshments at  
Chatswood RSL Club.**

Enter via the Victoria Avenue Club Entrance.

# **They Gave Their Tomorrow for Your Today**

Today we remember and commemorate the heroism of all Service Personnel, and pay tribute to the values they have established.

In WWI, over One Hundred years ago, the flower of our youth enlisted in the A.I.F. to fight overseas and many were landed at Gallipoli. From the resultant carnage of Gallipoli, Lone Pine and the Western Front (in France) grew the “spirit of Anzac” which still prevails today.

## **Courage, Mateship, Determination, Bravery and Tenacity**

In all subsequent conflicts and especially WWI and WWII, both the Royal Australian Navy and AIF personnel have made extraordinary courageous sacrifices. In support and attack the Royal Australian Air Force has provided a powerful strike force to both ground and sea forces. And, tributes must also be paid to those of the Merchant Navy, who more than capably assisted the three armed forces in all conflicts.

Let us not forget the women of Australia who stepped forward when called upon to play an active role in the Services and willingly accepted the arduous tasks allocated to them. They, together with the Nurses and Medical Teams fulfilled a vital role in all campaigns overseas and in Australia, whilst many paid the supreme sacrifice.

In WWII, the “Battle for Australia” commenced in the Pacific with the Coral Sea and Midway and Bismark Sea Battles. On land the infamous “Kokoda Track” encounters earned our troops, together with the “Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels”, a renowned place in history.

The onslaught and bombing of Darwin and Broome, enemy submarine attacks on Sydney and Newcastle harbours; attacks on the East and West Coasts of Australia; all resulted in huge losses of lives and property.

In every later conflicts such as British Commonwealth Occupational Forces campaign, Korea, Vietnam, Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq and other conflicts, our service personnel have carried with them, with great pride, the Anzac Spirit.

## **We pass this heritage to each of you.**

Today, we gratefully acknowledge the courage, the stoic faith and love of country of our servicemen and women, and are mindful of the sacrifices made by so many (and what greater sacrifice could there be than theirs); so that we may live in security and freedom. We cannot forget their lost lives and bereavements; the sickness and suffering and the sorrow and bitterness that are occasioned by war.

## **Acknowledgments**

### **The Chatswood Willoughby ANZAC Dawn Service and Commemoration Committee**

Committee: Mr Barney Flanagan OAM,  
Mr Garry Brigden,  
Mr Malcolm Dimmock,  
Lieutenant Colonel Matt Vertzonis CSM RFD (Ret'd),  
Miss Christina Ng (Co-ordinator),  
and Bernard Lau, Willoughby City Council

(Under auspices of Chatswood Sub-Branch of the R.S.L., Willoughby Legion Chapter; and Council and Councillors of the City of Willoughby).

Our sincere thanks to all who assisted in this Service.

## **Welfare Officers**

CHATSWOOD R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH AND WILLOUGHBY LEGION CHAPTER

446 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Mr Barney Flanagan OAM. 0408 424 978



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