

# THE SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE ANZAC DAY SERVICE

All Western Australian public schools are required to hold an ANZAC Day commemorative service in 2008.

As ANZAC Day 2008 falls in the second week of the Term 1 school holidays, schools may elect to have their ANZAC Day commemorative service either before the holidays (for example, on Thursday, 10 April 2008) or early in the first week back at school in Term 2 (for example, on Tuesday, 29 April 2008).

Although principals and schools will determine the form of service that is most appropriate for their school community, the following suggested order of service is explained in full detail, with accompanying music, at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au). For primary schools, a resource kit sent in 2003 by DVA contains information, about the flag protocol, suggested hymns and readings, the words of the 'Ode of Remembrance' and music for the 'Last Post', 'Reveille' and 'The National Anthem'.

The suggested order of proceedings for the commemorative ceremony is as follows:

- **Introduction**
- **Hymn**
- **Prayer/reading/poem**
- **Address**
- **Wreath laying**
- **The Ode**
- **The Last Post**
- **One minute's silence**
- **Reveille**
- **The National Anthem**

The Department of Defence website contains several ANZAC Day speeches for use in primary and secondary schools – a good starting point for students taking on this role at school commemorative ceremonies.

Part of the website contains a photo gallery that would be useful in developing media presentations.

•Speeches [www.defence.gov.au/anzacday/index.cfm](http://www.defence.gov.au/anzacday/index.cfm)

•Photo Gallery [www.defence.gov.au/fotoweb](http://www.defence.gov.au/fotoweb)

## THE FIRST ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

*The first ANZAC Day commemorative ceremony was held in 1916 at Serapeum in the Suez Canal Defence Zone where the Gallipoli veterans were stationed. Those men who had served at Gallipoli wore a blue ribbon on their right breast and those who actually took part in the first landing also wore a red ribbon. After the commemoration service, all work stopped and a huge cricket and swimming carnival was held. Concerts went on during the carnival and cables were sent to the ANZACs in France. From this celebration, ANZAC Day as we know it evolved.*