



## **Anzac Day 2025**

### **Welcome Address**

Good Morning I am Toby Ford. On behalf of the Vikings Rowing Club, I welcome all members of the Queensland Rowing community, their friends and families to ANZAC Day on Water that Vikings have hosted on the Brisbane River for the last 15 years.

For those currently serving in action or peace time postings we send our warmest respect and appreciation of your work as serving members of our military forces.

In the spirit of reconciliation, I also pay tribute to the traditional owners of this country in which we reside, for whom many fought alongside other Australians and New Zealanders in many conflicts abroad.

### **Lest we forget !**

#### **Introduction**

Vikings Rowing Club for those of you who are unfamiliar with our club, was founded to sustainably operate a social and competitive Masters rowing program in Brisbane.

We are very proud of our membership base, with regular members rowing from as far away as Gympie, Toowoomba, Boonah and Barcaldine when they come to Brisbane. We also host Outback Rowing Australia's members from all around Queensland when they come to town and row with us

Through these rural connections we have extended our philanthropic endeavours to host the Head of the Outback, the most inland regatta of its kind in Australia. This is to foster wellbeing through organised sport for all ages. We encourage all crews today to plan ahead and register for this to be held 4-5<sup>th</sup> October Kings Birthday Weekend this year.

Our moto Fortititer Remaga Vive Bene "Row Hard, Live Long", was chosen to exemplify the values of rowing and the virtues of taking good care of our members as we age. We encourage others to do the same.

#### **What Does Anzac Day Mean Today**

In modern times, Anzac Day serves as a platform for reflection on broader themes, Anzac Day, holds a profound place in Australia's national consciousness. It commemorates the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Gallipoli in 1915, (110 years ago ) a campaign marked by significant loss but also by the emergence of a distinct national identity.

Today Australia has one of the worlds most diverse populations with people coming to live here peacefully in friendship and support of everyone no matter what race or creed , colour , gender or age we may be.



This value and Identity as a nation who cares for others is essential in a world where increasingly the rights of individuals may seem to outshout the benefits of the collective.

The notion of giving back is Australian .Ironically it was best summed up by the American President JFK in 1961 who said “ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country”. I know the incumbent American President does not stand for that and so maybe today we should spare a thought for those who fought for our right to be free and be part of a democracy which makes Anzac Day even more relevant.

For many of us Anzac Day should be a reminder to leave conflict and hatred, jealousy and anger , persecution and loathing off our shores . We should be a peaceful nation and we should respect each other as equal in every meaning of the word. Those who fort for our freedom should be respected by us remaining peaceful

### **The Anzac Spirit**

The "Anzac spirit" embodies qualities such as mateship, bravery, and perseverance. These values have transcended the battlefield, influencing Australia's response to various challenges, including natural disasters and national crises. In recent times when our military forces have gone to floods fires and natural disasters to help rebuild communities is a fine example pf service to others in need .

In essence, Anzac Day today is not only a remembrance of past conflicts but also a reflection on national identity, values, and the enduring quest for peace.

In this spirit we are bringing all of you together once more for Anzac Day which is a most important event in our nations culture and history.

### **Anzac on the Water**

This year is particularly important as it marks the one hundred and tenth year since the landing in Gallipoli during the 1914-1918 First World War in which the actual history of the ANZAC legend was formed.

I marvel that Australia's total population at the time was only 4 million. 416,809 enlisted for service, representing 40 per cent of males aged between 18 and 44. 60,000 men and women died representing 1/7 people in that age group . Almost every family lost a relative some even more.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 2 in September 1945. The war memorial reports of the 1 million Australians who were involved in WW2, 750,000 (1/10 of our population at the time) were enlisted in conflict leading to 30,000 POWS and 39,000 deaths.

It is also 72 years since the end of the Korean War in which 18,000 Australians served and 314 died.

It also marks for Vietnam Veterans the 59<sup>th</sup> year since the battle of Long Tan in August of 1966. 60,000 Australians served and 521 died.



As time passes, fewer and fewer Australians have directly experienced war, with all its horrors and loss, or the sense of fellowship and achievement during military operations.

Today we recognise those who have served so we can recognise their service and sacrifice and remember those who have died.

### **How did the Anzac legend start?**

More than 8,000 Australian soldiers had died in the campaign. Gallipoli had a profound impact on Australians at home, and the 25<sup>th</sup> April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who died in that war.

Anzac Day now serves to commemorate the lives of Australians who died in the Second World War, and in subsequent years the meaning of the day has been further broadened to include those who lost their lives in all the military and peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved.

### **Why do we celebrate the Dawn Service?**

It is often suggested that the Dawn Service observed on Anzac Day has its origins in a military routine still followed by the Australian Army. The half-light of dawn was one of the times favored for launching an attack on the enemy.

Soldiers 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”. At dusk in the evening it is equally favorable for battle, the “stand-to”, was repeated at sunset.

However, many historians would argue the meaning of such a ceremony held like we are holding here today, is because in the quiet early morning it was easiest to reflect and think of those loved ones who may have lost their lives in battle.

This morning we pay our respects before our own day starts in a life filled with freedom and choice, unmarred by any major permanent deprivation or limitation, that is the result of those who fought across time for Australia and New Zealand.

### **The readings**

In the first part of our ceremony this morning we are going to hear two readings. They will be followed then by the traditional bugle ceremony and then a closing reading will conclude the event with the playing of the New Zealand and Australian national Anthems .

### **The Bugle Ceremony**

I would ask all attending men and women that when asked prior to the Reveille Bugle that you remove your caps and place them over your heart as a gesture of respect for those men and women who served and lost their lives in war or peacetime.



By order of ceremony this morning we will have the following readings .

### **Anzac Prayer then the The Prayer of Intercession**

#### **Anzac Prayer read by Ian Smith himself a reserve serviceman**

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth.

Remember, O Lord, all those the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. In that place of light from which sorrow and mourning are far banished, give them rest, O Lord, thou lover of men. And grant to us who remain the spirit of service which may make us worthy of their sacrifice. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **The Prayer of Intercession read by Ian Matheson**

I have asked him to lead the prayer of Intercession

The prayer of intercession is a reading which enables you as the audience to respond . Our reader will request when you hear them say LORD HEAR US you can reply Lord Hear Our Prayer

#### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord of Peace, we who are gathered here think of those who went out to the battlefields of the First World War, Second World War, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and other war events since then never to return. Grant to them eternal rest.

#### **Lord, Hear Us.**

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Lord of Peace, we give thanks for those who not only fought our nations enemies, but the enemy of discrimination. May this fight be one all Australians participate in so that our own nation can be a nation of peace and justice.

#### **Lord, Hear Us**

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Lord of Peace, we remember today those who are peacekeepers and work with war torn communities to bring stability to the lives of many.



### **Lord Hear Us. All:**

***Lord, hear our prayer***

Lord of Peace, we pray for the families of those who still grieve the loss of their sons and daughters; their brothers and sisters. May they find comfort as our nation joins with them in remembering.

### **Lord, Hear Us.**

***All: Lord, hear our Prayer***

Lord of Peace, we pray for the men and women who serve in Australia's armed forces today. Please keep them safe; please help them to protect life; please give them the strength to fight ethically.

### **Lord, Hear Us**

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Lord of Peace, we pray for the peace of the world. We especially commend to your mercy the homeless and refugees We pray for the situation in Afghanistan, Syria and Sudan. Grant that the sane and selfless leadership may prevail in these places, and wherever there is warfare.

### **Lord, Hear Us**

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time or war. We pray that 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, for the honour and glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All: Amen***

## **The Navy and Anzac Ode**

In this next and most important segment you will hear the Navy Ode and the Anzac Ode.

The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon published in 1914. The verse, which became the Anzac Ode, was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921.

However, about seven years ago one of our own rowing community members Rudi Bianchi from Toowong Club, an old Navy man himself, approached me afterwards and asked if we could with the connection to water and rowing have the Navy Ode which is different but includes the traditional Anzac Ode.



They have no grave but the cruel sea  
No flowers lay at their head  
A rusting hulk is their tombstone  
A'fast on the ocean bed.

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.

**LEST WE FORGET**

We are now recognise another important part of the ceremony the Last Post and Reveille.

**Why do we have a Bugle ?**

### **The Bugle**

Using a bugle in military settings to wake soldiers dates back to the Roman times when horns trumpeted out Diana's Hymn. To this day the French term for Reveille is 'La Diana'.

When bugle calls were officially introduced into the British Military System by King George III, a special call was written for the waking of troops. This became known as Reveille meaning "to wake". Another signal was played at the end of the day known as "The Last Post". In all remembrance ceremonies the Last Post is played first followed by a minute's silence and then the Reveille.

### **The Last Post**

The Last Post is a trumpet or bugle call which was sounded each night by the officer of the guards who on completing his rounds to check that the garrison was secure and the sentries were at their posts blew the bugle now called the Last Post.

It is also sounded at funerals and commemorative services like ANZAC Day to symbolize that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

### **Silence Period**

A period of silence in between both bugle calls is part of a tradition in which the King felt it was important for all constituents to remain silent in perfect stillness so as to concentrate with reverence on those who have died for our freedom and peace in life.

### **The Reveille**

The Reveille is a bright, cheerful call to rouse soldiers from their slumber to get ready for duty. The call has also been adopted to conclude remembrance services. It symbolizes an



awakening in a better world for the dead and ‘rouses’ the living to pay their respects to the memory of their comrades—as they go back to duty.

### **The Bugle is Played by Harold Hope Vikings**

We are most grateful as a club for Harolds offer some years ago to dust off his bugle and recite both bugle pieces. I would now ask those of you with hats to remove them and place them over your right breast. You may put them back on at the conclusion of the second bugle piece.

After that we will commence the second part of the ceremony.

We now have one prayer and a poem followed by the national Anthems of New Zealand and Australia. You are most welcome to join in and sing these please.

### **Prayer**

#### **My Childrens Hope**

Under a rising dawn today we are the lucky ones for whom they went to war. In jungles, fields and oceans they took our flag to score.

Lets us today respect their strength, courage, form and wit. For its why you and I are safe in freedom as we sit.

So if you’ve come from somewhere else or you feel this place is yours, those early Anzacs paved the way for life in peace upon our shores.

I’ve been a grandson, a son, a father and now a grandfather, I plead for common sense. Please remove indifference , prejudice, bias and disrespect from our shores, so all our children and their children can live as one.

Let’s embrace the hope of all our Anzac dead, their loss was not a waste and make them proud we are one beneath the Southern Cross.

Lest we forget.

### **“Sir” by Bill Bridgeford**

#### **“Sir”**

Sir - do you mind if I shed a tear  
I swear it's the first time since this time last year  
My spine is a tingle - my throat is all dry  
As I stand to attention for all those who died



I watch the flag dancing half way down the pole  
That damn bugle player sends chills to my soul  
I feel the pride and the sorrow - there's nothing the same  
As standing to attention on ANZAC Day

So Sir - on behalf of the young and the free  
Will you take a message when you finally do leave  
To your mates that are lying from Tobruk to the Somme  
The legend of your bravery will always live on

I've welcomed Olympians back to our shore  
I've cheered baggy green caps and watched Wallabies score  
But when I watch you marching, Sir, in that parade  
I know these are the memories that never will fade

So Sir - on behalf of the young and the free  
Will you take a message when you finally do leave  
It's the least we can do, Sir, to repay the debt  
We'll always remember you - Lest We Forget

Written By :                      Dibbs Morgan                                      Condamine Qld 2006

## **Wreath Laying**

## **National Anthems**

This year we are playing the national anthems of both New Zealand and Australia.

I would ask you to stand for these two and please feel free to sing along.

After the two songs would you please stay tuned for the conclusion of the ceremony.

## **Closing Acknowledgements**

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls this concludes the Anzac Day Celebration.

Thank you all for your attendance today. This has been a special event. We hope you will return next year and join Vikings in this important national event.

Many thanks to Rowing Queensland for their support in making this ceremony a success that it has been today. Thank you to our guests in the official party, the tinny marshals and to all of you who have been part of the flotilla.

Thank you Sommerville House for their hospitality here at their facility. Thank you to Churchie for the Anzac biscuits. Thank you to All Hallows for their hospitality back at our sheds in West End where you are all invited if you would like to join the rowers for coffee and burgers .





We would like all boats to row up to the green buoy and turn around and row past the crowd for a row past.

Three cheers to all men and women who have served our country or are serving it at present.

## PLAY

I WAS ONLY 19

I STILL CALL AUSTRALIA HOME

Thank you

Dr Toby Ford

Vikings Anzac Day Coordinator