



Press Release

29 October 2011

Yarra Glen RSL to Hold Remembrance Day Service

On Friday, 11 November 2011, we will again pause to remember those citizen soldiers who gave their lives to maintain our freedom. The Yarra Glen RSL will hold a Memorial Service starting at 10:30 AM at the Yarra Glen Cenotaph, located at the Memorial Hall on the corner of Bell Street and ANZAC Avenue. Following the short service, individuals may place their remembrance poppies at the base of the monument. A reception will follow in the RSL rooms in the Memorial Hall.

The tradition of using poppies to remember veterans who paid the ultimate price for our freedom was started back in 1915. Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Army Surgeon, wrote the following poem after the terrible battle in the Ypres, Belgium. In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook.

Poppies were first sold in England on Armistice Day in 1921 by members of the British Legion to raise money for those who had been incapacitated by the war. The practice began in Australia the same year, promoted by the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (now known as the Returned & Services League of Australia - or RSL). Since 1921 wearing a poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten the more than 102 000 Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts during the past 100 years.

The Returned & Services League of Australia, Yarra Glen Sub-Branch holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Memorial Hall. Our mission is to support the well-being and betterment of our members, former and serving members of the ADF, and their dependants, with the provision of welfare and commemorative services and, where appropriate, contribute to the worthy needs within the community.

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