



Veterans' commemorative dates

We participate in local and national events on these significant days in our military history. This reflects our commitment to honouring veterans. We honour the service, sacrifice and ongoing contributions of veterans, serving personnel and their families.

We commemorate these days each year to honour:

- the dedication of those who served
- those who supported operations at home
- the families who continue to carry the legacy of service.

17 January

Operation Desert Storm began – Gulf War

On this date in 1991 the coalition operations to liberate Kuwait began. The day recognises the efforts of Australian Defence Force personnel who served in the Gulf region.

19 February

Bombing of Darwin Day

On this date in 1942, this was the first and largest attack on Australian soil during the Second World War. The day honours those who defended the Northern Territory and supported the war effort.

20 March

Iraq War began

This day marks the start of Australia joining coalition operations in Iraq in 2003. We honour the service of personnel deployed across multiple rotations.

25 April

Anzac Day

This is a national day of reflection and remembrance. Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on Gallipoli on this date in 1915. The day honours the service and sacrifice of all Australians who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

8 May

Victory in Europe (VE) Day

This day marks Germany's surrender in World War II in 1945 after almost 6 years of conflict. We remember and reflect on the important role of many Australians across the European theatre of war.

11 July

Departure of all ADF personnel from Afghanistan

This day marks the end of Australia's longest military commitment, in 2021. The day honours the service and sacrifice of all who served in Afghanistan.

24 July

Arrival of RAMSI forces in the Solomon Islands

The day marks the deployment of Australian personnel to the Solomon Islands in 2003. They went as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands to support peace and stability.

27 July

Korean Veterans' Day

This day marks the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953. We honour Australians who served during the Korean War.

15 August

Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day

This day marks the surrender of Japan in 1945. This ended World War II in the Pacific. The day honours the service and sacrifice of Australian and Allied forces.

18 August

Vietnam Veterans' Day

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on this day in 1966 in Vietnam. We reflect on the bravery, resilience, and challenges faced by Vietnam veterans. The day also promotes ongoing recognition and support for their efforts.

31 August

Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day

This day recognises the service of Australian personnel during the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation (1962–1966). We honour those who contributed to regional stability and peace. We honour their sacrifice, and their enduring legacy.

First Wednesday in September

Battle for Australia Day

On this day we remember the sacrifices of those who served on Australia's home front during World War II, as well as in crucial battles to the north. We honour the courage of all people who served at sea, on the mainland and islands, and in the skies.

3 September

Merchant Navy Day

On this day we remember the civilian seamen who served on merchant ships during both World Wars. The merchant navy played a crucial role in supplying Allied home fronts and military forces. The first attack on an Allied merchant ship was on this date in 1939.

14 September

National Peacekeepers' Day

This day marks the anniversary of Australia's first involvement in peace operations. Four Australians became the world's first peacekeepers to deploy into the field. This was in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) on 14 September 1947. National Peacekeepers' Day honours all Australian peacekeepers, peacemakers, peacebuilders and peace enforcers.

20 September

Arrival of International Force East Timor (INTERFET) in East Timor

This day marks the deployment of Australian-led forces in 1999 to restore peace and security in East Timor. This followed the independence referendum.

19 October

War Widows Day

This day acknowledges the strength, resilience and contribution of war widows and widowers. It recognises the profound impact of service on families. As well as the enduring legacy carried by those who have lost a partner due to military service.

11 November

Remembrance Day

On this date in 1918 the Armistice ended the First World War. At 11am we observe a minute of silence. We remember and honour all who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

31 December

Conclusion of Operation SLIPPER – Afghanistan

This day recognises the end of Australia's primary military mission in Afghanistan in 2014. It honours the dedication and sacrifice of all who served.