

## ANZAC DAY

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### THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

On 25 April 1915, eight months into the First World War, Anzac soldiers landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula. They and other Allied troops were there as part of a plan to open the Dardanelles Strait so that the Allies could threaten Constantinople (now Istanbul), capital of Germany's ally the Ottoman Empire. This, it was hoped, would force a Turkish surrender.

But the Allies encountered unexpectedly strong resistance from the Turks. Both sides suffered enormous loss of life and after nine months the Allies abandoned the campaign and withdrew their surviving troops. A total of 130,000 Allied and Turkish soldiers had died. Nearly 3000 of them were New Zealanders.

The anniversary of the landings has been commemorated in New Zealand since 1916 and Anzac Day has been a public holiday since 1921. On this day New Zealanders acknowledge the sacrifice of all those who have died in warfare, and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.

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### THE ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Anzac Day commemorations generally start with a Dawn Service held at the local war memorial. Its focus is primarily military. Returned service personnel march to the war memorial where they are joined by members of the armed forces and the public.

A short service is conducted, generally finishing with the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen':

*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.*

The Last Post is played by a lone bugler, followed by a minute's silence which is ended by the playing of Reveille.

Later in the morning a citizens' service is held, featuring a parade of service personnel wearing their medals and displaying military banners and standards. Veterans are joined by community groups such as the Red Cross, cadets, boy scouts and girl guides. They march to the local war memorial where ceremonies include the laying of wreaths and speeches. After the official ceremonies, Returned and Services' Association (RSA) clubs host veterans and their families. The formal commemoration period ends at 1.00pm.

Look for further information on [www.anzac.govt.nz](http://www.anzac.govt.nz)

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