

## **ANZAC Day Message from Mayor Tony Foster**

As we gather together on 25 April, be it at commemorative services that unfortunately are still restricted this year, or in our homes, we honour all those who have served our nation in war and on peace-keeping missions.

This is a sacred day and one that is growing even more important in the eyes of Australians. I think that is wonderful, that our younger generations are increasingly grasping the importance of ANZAC day and recognising the sacrifices of past generations.

While we have recently all come through a challenging period with restrictions and isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been difficult for many people, I do believe we need to put this in context.

I recently learnt of a young Melbourne woman who put a very poignant message on social media, responding to people complaining about the most recent lock-down period. She wrote that her grandfather had been locked up and tortured in Changi Prison Camp for nearly four years during the Second World War, so surely, we could cope with a few weeks at home and our outdoor activities restricted to the surrounding five kilometres.

I really think that puts it into perspective and helps us appreciate what many of our service personnel have endured and are forced to continue to endure.

Turning to the original reason that we commemorate ANZAC Day. It is to honour the more than 416,000 Australians, including almost 15,500 Tasmanians, who enlisted to serve in the First World War. Sadly, many never returned.

The Australians displayed great courage, endurance, discipline and mateship – qualities that came to be known as the ANZAC spirit – a spirit that continues in our armed services to this very day.

The day also honours the hundreds of thousands of Australians that served in subsequent wars and peace-keeping missions.

Many are still serving and we thank them for their service as we thank those who have served before them.

Tasmania today is home to more than 10,000 war veterans and ex-service personnel and this year is the first ANZAC Day where we can recognise our State's and Australia's most recent Victoria Cross recipient, Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean. So, it is a special day.

Special too in Brighton where we have chosen to honour the service of women in and supporting our armed forces, with Deputy Mayor Barbara Curran outlining at our local service the role that women played in wartime, a role that we should never forget.

I urge everyone to consider the wonderful job our armed service personal do in protecting our nation and assisting in times of emergency and the contributions of all those who have previously served.

Thank you and lest we forget.

**Tony Foster AM OAM JP**  
**Mayor**