

Invite to 'Anzac Centenary Commemorative Week' events

The Victorian Government has announced the official activities to mark the centenary of the commencement of the First World War on 4 August 1914.

Veterans' Affairs Minister Damian Drum said Victorians are encouraged to attend three, free events during Anzac Centenary Commemorative Week.

The first public event will be a wreath laying commemoration at the Shrine of Remembrance (Birdwood Ave, Melbourne) to mark the start of World War One (2pm-2:30pm, 4 August 2014).

"This will be a solemn commemoration and will see officials and members of the public pause to remember and reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of so many people in the First World War," Mr Drum said.

The second public event will occur that night at Melbourne Town Hall (90–120 Swanston St, Melbourne) with a commemoration to mark a huge rally held in August 1914 to encourage enlistment and garner support for the war (6pm-7:30pm, 4 August 2014). Anyone interested in attending this free event should register at: www.anzaccenatary.vic.gov.au/remembrance/commemorativeweek/

"The Town Hall event will include historical songs, video, readings from 1914 speeches, re-enactments and a panel discussion to mark an important moment in Victoria's early involvement in the Great War. It is a key commemorative event and I encourage anyone with a connection to, or interest in, the Anzac Centenary to register to attend," Mr Drum said.

The third public event will be a commemoration at the Parade Ground, Quarantine Station - Point Nepean National Park, to mark the first shot in the British Empire of World War One (11am, Tuesday, 5th August 2014).

"Victoria has a powerful WWI story to tell and the fact the first shot of the war fired in anger in the British Empire was from Point Nepean is one of the most interesting and important aspects of that history," Mr Drum said.

"This event will allow people to hear the stories of this historic moment and reflect on Victoria's role in the war. We expect this event will be of international interest."

Many other official and community events will take place between 2014 and 2018 to mark the Anzac Centenary including a state-wide information program, the Shrine's Travelling Exhibition and commemoration of the departure of the first Victorian infantry by train and the first Victorian embarkation of Australian war ships.

For information visit: www.anzaccenatary.vic.gov.au

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