



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HMAS commemoration delivered in digital format

3 November 2020

Australia's greatest naval tragedy, the sinking of the HMAS *Sydney* II, will be remembered with an online ceremony to mark the 79th anniversary.

Differing to previous years' services, a pre-recorded ceremony will be delivered to the community online to pay respect to the 645 crew members who lost their lives at sea after the ship sunk off the Geraldton coast in 1941.

City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn said the service was taking on a new format this year to adhere to proper restrictions.

"Many of our events haven't been reinstated this year due to COVID-19, and that's why this year's commemorative service will be presented in a different format," he said.

"It is still extremely important for us to deliver this service to the community as we know how important it is to pay homage to this tragic event which has played such a big part in our nation's history.

"I would like to encourage the community to still take the time to remember and honour this significant event by tuning into the online broadcast."

The City has worked closely with the HMAS *Sydney* II Warden, Naval Association of Australia, RSL, the HMAS *Sydney* II Advisory Committee and other bodies to pre-record an order of service much like previous years.

Commander Greg Swinden R.A.N will provide the main address and CO of the HMAS *Sydney* V
Commander Edward Seymour R.A.N will feature as a guest speaker.

The wreath laying service will take place at the HMAS *Sydney* Memorial on the evening and will be live streamed as part of the broadcast.

The broadcast will take place on the City of Greater Geraldton's [Facebook page](#) and YouTube channel on Thursday 19 November from 5:45pm. *(Please note that the time indicated for the live-streaming of the 79th Commemorative Service of the loss of HMAS Sydney II at the Memorial in Geraldton WA is WST, therefore, those in other parts of Australia will need to adjust accordingly.)*

Residents are also reminded that at approximately 7pm a large blank cannon shot will be fired as well as a display of multiple flares off the coast.

There will also be a service for the Unknown Sailor on Sunday 15 November from 10-10:30am. It will take place at the Geraldton War Cemetery in Utakarra.

The service takes place every year at the grave site of the Unknown Sailor to reflect and remember the servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country.

This year this service is combined with the Pilgrimage to the Cemetery.

For more information about the 79th HMAS *Sydney* II Commemoration service, contact the City on 9956 6600 or email council@cgg.wa.gov.au

ENDS:

Notes to media:

For all media enquiries, please contact the Communications team via email to Communications@cgg.wa.gov.au or by phoning (08) 9956 6973.