

**ADDRESS AT A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION
FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025
BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART CENOTAPH, TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to you all as we gather to honour those who have served our country.

May I begin by acknowledging the many veterans of conflicts to which Australia has committed forces and those who have served in our Australian Defence Force through the years. We remember, too, the service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation.

For more than a century, since 1918, when the guns fell silent on the Western Front,¹ we gather each year to commemorate and give thanks for the personal sacrifices of more than 60,000 Australians who lost their lives in the First World War. We also remember the many hundreds of thousands more who have served, and continue to serve, in wars, peacekeeping missions, and humanitarian operations since.²

And sacrifice is not only the loss of life, but also the physical, mental, and emotional scars that are carried by those who return, and by the families who grieve. We must continue to do all we can to ensure they receive the care, support, and respect they deserve.

We can also commemorate this personally by remembering the service of a relative or by sharing their story of sacrifice.

Today, I remember my deceased parents. At the outbreak of World War II, my father returned to Australia from Oxford, England, where he was studying as a Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar, to join our Royal Australian Navy. He served as a Lieutenant from January 1941 until May 1945. He was in Darwin during the

¹ [Australian War Memorial, "Remembrance Day"](#) accessed 7 Oct 25

² Over 103,000 Australians have died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations since 1885.
<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration> accessed 7 Oct 25

bombing by the Japanese on 15 March 1943 and also in Ora Bay, Papua New Guinea, during bombing on 14 May 1943.

During the War, my mother was employed by the Australian Army in Victoria as a French and German translator in the Censorship Section.

Neither ever spoke to the family about their service in any detail.

Many others here, on this Remembrance Day, will have their own personal stories of service and sacrifice to remember.

As we gather here in the peace and safety of Australia, let us also reflect on the many conflicts that still scar much of the world. In Ukraine, in North Africa, in Myanmar, and in the Middle East, wars continue to take a devastating human toll.

Each of these conflicts reminds us that the pursuit of peace, justice, and human dignity is the challenge of our time.

May we remember all who have served, those who did not return, and those who returned forever changed.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning — we will remember them.

Lest we forget.