

Anzac Day Speech
Wagaman Primary School

(MAJ Tracy Maglasang)

Tomorrow is Anzac Day, which is one of Australia's most important days. It's a day for past and present Army, Navy and Air Force members to gather and remember, and it's a day for all Australians to remember, respect and be thankful to those who have served for their country.

Remember and honour

We must remember those who fought and were killed in action or missing in action. And we must remember those members who have returned from war with injuries or horrific memories.

Respect

We should respect the defence members for their bravery in battle and for the sacrifices they and their families have made. And we must respect them for their loss of lives, injuries, innocence, their years spent in battle and the horrible things they experienced that still haunt them.

Thankful

We must be thankful to the members who fought for a better Australia and world and for our freedom and safety.

What is the Anzac Spirit?

It means **always doing your best**. Our soldiers were young, scared, tired, hungry, cold and sick. But they kept going and never gave up and were always proud of their efforts.

It means having **courage** and being brave even when facing a larger or more powerful enemy.

It also means having **integrity**. Our soldiers kept their morals and values and always followed the right thing to do. Throughout the wars we have fought, our military is highly regarded and respected by all other nationalities for fighting fairly and treating enemy prisoners fairly.

It means using **teamwork**. Mateship is extremely important in Australian culture. Our soldiers worked together to fight for their country, their freedom and their lives.

And it means **loyalty**. Our soldiers were loyal to themselves, their mates, their country, their families and their bosses.

So how can you keep the Anzac spirit alive and honour our defence members:

Always do your best at school, home and with your homework. Take pride in everything you do and never give up, even if the task is really difficult.

Show **courage**. If you do something wrong, admit it and learn from your mistake. Stand up for yourself and others and always say no to bullies and bullying.

Have **integrity**. Know what is right and wrong and always choose to do the right thing.

Commit to **teamwork** and work together at school, home and your sports teams.

Show **loyalty** to yourself and believe you can achieve all your dreams and goals. Be loyal to your parents and family, your friends, your teacher and school and Australia.

Anzac Day is not about a day off school or talking of war and fighting as something fantastic. It is a reminder that war is horrible and that, while we should be proud of what the Anzacs and other

Australian Army, Navy and Air Force members have done, we should always remember their sacrifices.

Like every other Australian, I hope that Australia will never be involved in another war – and that you will never be called up to experience such a terrible thing. But you should remember the Anzac spirit – always do your best, courage, integrity, teamwork and loyalty – throughout your whole lives.

Tomorrow when you watch the parade and perhaps meet some of our soldiers, sailors or aircrew remember their sacrifices and thank them for giving us the Anzac spirit and a peaceful, safe, wonderful Australia.

Thank you.