



MEDIA RELEASE

April 8, 2015

Marion hosts landmark Army parade

A ceremonial Freedom of Entry parade on Saturday, April 18 will start a week of commemorations marking the Anzac Centenary in the City of Marion.

More than 140 soldiers from the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion from Warradale Barracks will march through the streets, escorting the Banner of the Australian Army, accompanied by the sounds of the Australian Army Band - Adelaide.

The parade will start at 1pm in the grounds of Marion Sports and Community Centre in Sturt before the battalion marches to the Marion Cultural Centre where its arrival will coincide with the opening of an exhibition of World War One artefacts.

Rolling road closures and a special police escort along Sturt and Diagonal roads will be put in place to allow the community to line the route, cheer on the battalion and see Mayor Hanna take the salute in front of the Council Chambers.

Mayor Kris Hanna called on the community to line the streets and show their support for the battalion as people did 100 years ago.

"I urge the entire community to take to the streets and cheer on the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, just as people did for the ANZAC soldiers 100 years ago," Mayor Hanna said.

"People can enjoy the spectacle of ceremonial drill, hear music from the Army band and see the battalion march through the city. The parade is a fitting way to begin seven days of Anzac Centenary commemorations in Marion which will culminate in a youth vigil and dawn service at Hallett Cove foreshore."

The Freedom of Entry parade has its origins in medieval Europe where citizens lived in walled cities and granted entry to soldiers as a mark of trust.

The 9th Combat Service Support Battalion was first granted Freedom of the City of Marion in 2000, giving it the right to march through the council area with "swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, band playing and banners flying".

What see and when:

- 1pm The battalion will parade on the grounds of Marion Croquet Club at Marion Sports and Community Centre. See soldiers in ceremonial uniform and the Army Banner marched on to the parade. There'll be music from the Army Band and an address by Mayor Hanna.
- 1.40pm The battalion leave the centre and head towards Marion Council Chambers on Sturt Road where the Commanding Officer will respond to a "challenge" from the Senior Officer of Sturt Police on behalf of the citizens of Marion.
- 1.45pm Join well-wishers along Diagonal Road as soldiers march towards the Marion Cultural Centre for the opening of a new exhibit *Almond Groves to Poppy Fields: Marion's Unsung War Heroes*

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