



MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Parade signals start of Marion ANZAC commemorations

More than 140 armed soldiers from Warradale Barracks have marched through the streets of Marion today signaling the countdown to the city's biggest ANZAC commemorations.

The ceremonial Freedom of Entry parade saw soldiers from the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion march with bayonets fixed and banners flying accompanied by the sounds of the Australian Army Band.

The parade was the first event in the lead up to the ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil and unveiling of a new \$340,000 memorial at Hallett Cove on Friday, April 24.

The vigil will start at 6.30pm and be followed the next day by a dawn service organised by the Lions Club of Hallett Cove.

The vigil will include a replica World War One camp, a display of military memorabilia, musical performances and a ceremony after which young people from service organisations, including the Australian Air Force Cadets, will form an all-night honour guard leading up to the dawn service.

Up to 4000 people are expected to attend the events which will be held at a site overlooking the sea reminiscent of ANZAC Cove.

Mayor Kris Hanna said the parade was a fitting way to start ANZAC centenary commemorations in Marion.

"The parade was 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," Mayor Hanna said.

"The stage is set for the biggest ANZAC commemoration ever seen in the City of Marion.

"This will be a significant and moving event held around a new memorial which overlooks the sea in a poignant reminder of ANZAC Cove."

The parade began at 1pm in the grounds of Marion Sports and Community Club in Sturt and included an address by Mayor Hanna.

The battalion then marched to Marion Council chambers on Sturt Road where the Commanding Officer responded to a "challenge" from the Senior Officer of Sturt Police on behalf of the citizens of Marion and Mayor Hanna took the salute.

It then marched along Diagonal Road to 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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