



ANZAC DAY PROTOCOL GUIDE

Scope and purpose

This document provides protocol and ceremonial guidance for Marine Rescue NSW units participating in ANZAC Day commemorations. It aims to ensure volunteers represent Marine Rescue NSW with professionalism, dignity and consistency when participating in ANZAC Day ceremonial activities.

This guide applies to all Marine Rescue NSW units, volunteers representing the organisation at ANZAC Day events, and Unit Commanders and Protocol Officers responsible for coordinating participation.

This guide covers participation in:

- Dawn Services
- ANZAC Day marches
- Commemorative services
- Wreath laying ceremonies
- Maritime commemorations

Significance of ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day commemorates Australians and New Zealanders who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The date marks the anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

Participation by Marine Rescue volunteers reflects:

- Respect for those who served and sacrificed
- Recognition of maritime service contributions in wartime
- Support for veterans and the local community
- A commitment to remembrance

Representation of Marine Rescue NSW

Units may be invited by local councils, schools or veterans' organisations to participate in commemorative events.

Typical participation may include:

- Marching in ANZAC Day parades
- Attending dawn or commemorative services
- Laying wreaths at memorial services
- Providing vessel participation in harbour or maritime ceremonies

Participation should be coordinated through the Unit Commander or designated representative.

Uniform Requirements

Members attending in an official capacity should wear the approved Marine Rescue uniform.

Dress Code

- Marine Rescue Working Blue Uniform (1B) – trousers and long sleeve shirt
- Unit Executive may wear Ceremonial Dress White (2D)
- Overall presentation should reflect the professional standards of Marine Rescue NSW

Cold Weather

- Issued MRNSW navy jackets may be worn where required. Duty jackets. Medals may be displayed on either the shirt or the jacket under these dress codes
- Fluoro wet weather gear is not generally appropriate for formal events and should be avoided where possible
- Where possible, members in uniform should maintain consistency of dress for the ceremony (for example, all wearing jackets or all not wearing jackets)

Additional Items

- Members may wear a sprig of rosemary or poppy for remembrance
- Members should avoid excessive badges, ribbons or decorations beyond approved uniform items
- Members wishing to wear items beyond those outlined in this guide or the Protocol SOP may consider neat civilian attire to display those items

Wearing Medals

Medals should be worn in accordance with Australian honours and ceremonial protocol.

Personal Medals

Members entitled to wear medals for their own service must wear them:

- On the left side of the chest
- Mounted in a horizontal line
- In the official order of precedence

Medals may be court mounted or swing mounted, provided they are presented neatly and securely.

Relatives' Medals

Medals awarded to direct relatives may be worn during commemorative events such as ANZAC Day.

When worn:

- They must be worn on the right side of the chest
- They should be properly mounted
- They should be worn in a horizontal line where possible

Where multiple sets are worn, they should be placed one above the other. Members may wish to consider rotating sets between commemorative events rather than wearing all sets at once.

State-Issued Medals

- Medals issued by Australian states or territories and awarded personally are to be worn on the right side
- Medals issued by Australian states or territories not awarded personally are also to be worn on the right side

Unofficial or commemorative medals must not be worn on MRNSW uniform.

Items Not to Be Worn

The following should not be worn unless awarded personally:

- Neck decorations
- Association or commemorative badges

Behaviour and Conduct

All members representing Marine Rescue NSW are expected to maintain a respectful and professional standard.

Members should:

- Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the event
- Follow directions from parade marshals or organisers
- Maintain silence during ceremonial elements
- Ensure mobile phones are turned to silent

March Protocol

Formation

- Members should march in two or three ranks where possible, depending on numbers
- The Unit Commander or senior representative should lead the contingent
- Rehearsal prior to the event may be appropriate where members are unfamiliar with marching arrangements

Conduct While Marching

Members should:

- Maintain spacing and alignment
- Follow the pace set by parade marshals
- Maintain formation throughout the march

Members who have served in the armed forces may choose to march with their veteran unit instead.

Saluting and Marks of Respect

Members should observe the following marks of respect during key ceremonial moments.

General Conduct

- Members in uniform should stand at ease or at attention during ceremonial moments, as appropriate
- Members not in uniform should stand respectfully
- Conversation and movement should cease during ceremonial elements

Saluting

Where salutes are required:

- Uniformed members should stand at attention
- Members may salute individually, or the senior member may salute on behalf of the group where agreed beforehand
- Saluting should be practised beforehand where required (refer to Protocol SOP for correct salute)
- Members not comfortable saluting may remove head dress and bow their head
- Bowing the head may also be used as a mark of respect

The Ode of Remembrance

During the recitation of the Ode:

- Stand silently
- Face the memorial
- Remain still until the Ode concludes

The Last Post

When the Last Post is sounded:

- Stand at attention and/or salute
- Lower salute when the bugle finishes

One Minute Silence

During the silence:

- Remain completely still
- Maintain silence until the ceremony resumes

Rouse or Reveille

- Stand at attention and/or salute
- Lower salute when the bugle finishes

National Anthem / NZ Anthem / God Save the King

During these anthems:

- Stand at attention and/or salute
- Lower salute when music finishes on the final anthem
- Common convention is that members do not sing while saluting



Where unsure, members should observe military, police or cadet personnel for guidance.

Wreath Laying Protocol

If laying a wreath on behalf of the unit:

1. Approach the memorial when called by the Master of Ceremonies
2. Walk in a dignified manner
3. Place the wreath on the memorial
4. Step back one pace
5. Pause briefly with head bowed or salute for approximately two seconds
6. Turn and return to position

Where multiple members are participating, movements should be coordinated where practicable.

Movements should be slow and respectful. Rehearsal prior to the event is encouraged where appropriate.

Protocol Officers

Protocol Officers are appointed representatives responsible for upholding the ceremonial and presentation standards of Marine Rescue NSW.

They provide guidance on the correct application of uniform dress codes, ceremonial protocols, medal and insignia placement, flag use, and the formal conduct of events.

Contact details for each region's Protocol Officer:

Northern Rivers: protocol.nr@marinerescuensw.com.au

Mid North Coast: protocol.mnc@marinerescuensw.com.au

Hunter Central Coast: protocol.hcc@marinerescuensw.com.au

Sydney: protocol.syd@marinerescuensw.com.au

Illawarra: protocol.ill@marinerescuensw.com.au

Monaro: protocol.mon@marinerescuensw.com.au