



FROM THE COAST

ANZAC Day in Esperance

Today is a particularly special ANZAC Day in Esperance. The commemoration of our involvement in the First World War 100 years ago is a chance to honour the sacrifice made by the ANZACs, as well as the generations of servicemen and women who have defended our values and freedoms in wars and conflicts throughout history. Many community groups, organisations and all levels of government have come together to make this year's commemoration something truly extraordinary.

The Esperance Returned and Services League Sub-Branch, the Entrenchment Project Team (EPT) and volunteers from the local community will be introducing the new Esperance Light Horse Troop at this year's Anzac Day Service. Selected community members will also be authentically costumed in the uniform of the 10th Light Horse Troop thanks to the WA Army Museum, the Esperance Bijou Theatre and EPT volunteers. The Esperance Vintage Car Club will also showcase some vintage cars and military vehicles at the Esperance Anzac Day parade and service.

A special panel display exploring the role of Royal Australian Navy in WWI, called War at Sea, will be exhibited at the Esperance Museum today from 1pm-4pm. The exhibition shares the stories of Australia's first submarine AE1, which mysteriously disappeared without a trace while patrolling the seas near New Guinea. Also included are stories of Australia's second submarine AE2 which became the first Allied vessel to breach the Dardanelles in Turkey, and the story of the RAN Bridging Trains at the Gallipoli campaign. The stories have been collated from the personal diaries, ship logs and letters of Navy servicemen during WWI. War at Sea is on tour from the Australian National Maritime Museum and entry is by Gold Coin donation.

If you haven't yet heard about the Entrenchment Project it is a huge undertaking consisting of a locally produced musical production which will be held in November at the Esperance Civic Centre, commemorating the history and experiences of Esperance and Goldfields people during and after both World Wars, as well as The Vietnam War. Keep an eye out for the ongoing events, competitions and fundraisers, in the lead up to the production, with proceeds funding some iconic murals in Esperance and a phone and tablet app allowing rural students access to the Army Museum of Western Australia's World War II exhibit from their own homes. The project is also raising awareness for sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

ANZAC Day in Esperance will certainly be something special this year so if you're in town, come and watch the March off from 10.30am on Andrew St, the 11am service at the Esperance War Memorial and the incredible War at Sea Exhibition at the Esperance Museum in the afternoon to show support for the many Australian s who have given their lives and dedication to protect our values.