

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day on the 25th April is also the time to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service to this nation.

"When my uncle came back from serving in Korea he couldn't even get a beer in a pub let alone a pension, and he wasn't permitted to become a citizen until 1968"

John Kinsella, nephew of Australia's most famous Aboriginal soldier, Captain Reg Saunders MBE

Over 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders fought for Australia in World War I despite profound barriers to enlisting.

Explore Indigenous Australians' war service. The [Australian War Memorial](#) site has a variety of online resources (see below). Download or [purchase](#) the Department of Veteran Affairs' (DVA) Indigenous Service Publications for [Primary](#) and [Secondary](#) schools for background information and suggested inquiry activities. (*The secondary schools publication is currently out of print and unavailable for purchase, however it is available for [download](#) from DVA*).

[Contact](#) the Australian War Museum to borrow *Memorial Box 03: Too Dark for the Light Horse*. This site also takes you to online resources and Australian Curriculum links. Using the Australian War Memorial's online databases, [investigate](#) the war service of Aboriginal servicemen and women.

Watch Bush TV's [Untold Stories](#) about WW1 Aboriginal service men and research the lives of Victorian Koories such as Brabuwoolooong private Harry Thorpe. Why were there such barriers and how did some overcome them? Watch a range of videos such as Living Black's [Unidentified Soldier](#), [Indigenous Servicemen through the Years](#) and ABC Message Stick's [ANZAC](#), and discuss issues of equality, identity, recognition and life after service raised.

Consider participating in the Shrine of Remembrance [Poster Competition](#) highlighting the participation of Aboriginal service men and women as a class or whole-school activity.



Did you know that Gunditjmara man Reginald (Reg) Saunders was the first Aboriginal person to be commissioned as an Officer in the Australian Army?

Victorian Curriculum:

[VCHHK076](#) Significance of days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the importance of symbols and emblems, including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day: *History 3 and 4: Community, remembrance and celebrations*

[VCHHK142](#) Effects of World War I, with a particular emphasis on the changes and continuities brought to the Australian home front and society: *History 9 and 10: Australia at war (1914 – 1945): World War I*

[VCHHK148](#) Effects of World War II, with a particular emphasis on the changes and continuities brought to the Australian home front and society: *History 9 and 10: Australia at war (1914 – 1945): World War II*

For more Koorie Perspectives see the 2017 VAEAI [Koorie Education Calendar](#).