



REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOVEMBER 11TH 2021

From the Australian War Memorial's information on the First World War and Remembrance Day:

“At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare... The Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in war.

This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.”

Narrabundah's History students encourage everyone to take a moment of reflection today.

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY IN 2021? NARRABUNDAH HISTORY STUDENTS REFLECT...

In the spirit of Remembrance Day, it is imperative that we commemorate not only the sacrifices of service people but also the lives of everyone involved in such tragic events. It is important, now more than ever, to acknowledge the hard work put in by service people to keep us safe. During these times we must not look just to the past but at the present and how service people continue to go above and beyond in the community. This has been seen in the ADF's support service to our doctors and nurses through the COVID-19 pandemic and the assistance they have provided in aiding the vaccination of our population to protect us during this time. - Dante C

In 1948 a speech to the House of Commons, Churchill proclaimed: "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." This is why Remembrance Day is more important now than ever before. With 103 years between November 11th 1918 and November 11th 2021, we face the threat of forgetting the lessons history has taught us when they are more important now than ever. With the rise of racism and bigotry in the light of both our political environment and the rise of COVID-19, it is now we should be banding together, working as one community to overcome such obstacles. The very same obstacles service people have sacrificed themselves to beat throughout history. - Alice J

As of 2021, we are already more than a century apart from the armistice that signified the end of the First World War. Few alive then still remain, and the war is relegated to the discussion of historians rather than public discourse. Yet even still, the events at the beginning of last century still send ripples through our current world, a century on. The war left several nations devastated, and laid the foundations for extremism to take root in the following decades. Few now would believe in the certainty of a “war to end all wars”, yet the struggles of those that fought had managed to strengthen a generation's determination to never allow a repeat of those events. While the war was certainly a tragedy, it gave rise to new ideas, to the concept of collective security, and gave us a path towards cooperation and peace. - Ren R

