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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Broome prepares to commemorate Anzac Centenary

Broome will mark 100 years since Australia's involvement in WWI with an expanded Anzac Day Dawn Service, an Anzac Day eve commemoration, a new memorial wall and upgrades to the existing war memorial.

Anzac Centenary commemorations will be spread across the next four years, with 2014 marking 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli.

Broome's traditional Dawn Service and parade at Bedford Park starts at 5.25am on Saturday 25 April, and this year will be expanded to include a moving performance tribute to the Anzacs involving 40 St Mary's College students, a representative of the WA Police Pipe Band and a flypast by three RAAF No. 4 Squadron PC-9 aircraft.

In addition, an Anzac Day eve commemoration will be held on Friday 24 April at Town Beach. At 5pm the Broome Surf Life Saving Club will bring ashore a surf boat at Town Beach as a tribute to the Gallipoli landing, then from 5.30pm in nearby Lions Pioneer Park a lone piper from the WA Police Pipe Band will perform a 30-minute tribute including the traditional Piper's Lament.

Broome RSL President, Max Turner, said the Broome community's support for Anzac Day was outstanding and it was hoped the turnout would be even greater in the centenary year.

"Records show that 56 Broome men were killed in service during WWI, and this year's events will honour their legacy," Mr Turner said.

"The Broome RSL appreciates the community's ongoing support for Anzac Day and we hope that this year even more will attend the Dawn Service, parade and Anzac Day eve commemoration."

The war memorial in Bedford Park will be upgraded and improved by the Shire of Broome with funding help from the Federal Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program.

Broome Shire President, Graeme Campbell, said work would include installing two new memorial walls flanking the cenotaph, rendering and painting brickwork on the new walls and the existing cenotaph, and replacing pavement with exposed aggregate concrete.

"The Shire is very pleased to be able to play a part in honouring the sacrifices of those who served in wartime, and appreciates the assistance of the Commonwealth in helping fund the project," Cr Campbell said.

The Broome RSL is being assisted by the Shire of Broome, St Mary's College, Broome Men's Shed, Mercure Hotel, Lotterywest, RSL State Branch, Broome's Lions and Lioness Clubs and other local individuals and businesses.

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