

# THANK YOU

The Ballarat Sub Branch of the Returned and Services League would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for making this important day a success:

City of Ballarat

Catafalque Commander - CPL Daniel Godson

8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

**Dawn Service Official Party:**

MC - Brett Macdonald, Ballarat RSL President Alan Douglass,

Bishop Garry Weatherill, John Scannell

**Commemorative Service Official Party:** MC - Reg Mowatt, Mayor Cr Des Hudson,

Ballarat RSL President Alan Douglass,

Reverend Michael O'Brien, MAJ Christopher Fox, Catherine King MP, Juliana Addison MP,

Joe McCracken MP, Superintendent Frank Sells, CWO HMAS Ballarat Philip Copley

March Marshals - Captain Margaret Benoit, Dean Ditchfield, Gavan Dorian, Frank Nuccio,

Andrew Ottini, Jay Parsons, Darren Werry

Students: Damascus College - Sophie Busuttill, Xavier Byrne Mount Clear College - Sam Haley, Mikala Lund

Musicians - Duncan Brown, Craig Farrington, Peter Gunn, Aram Haroutunian

City of Ballarat Municipal Brass Band St Patrick's College Band

David Anwyl, Ballarat East Homing Club

Sing Australia Bayley Mackie Frank Bernardi

LTCOL Derek Sonogan - CO 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, RVR

WO1 Matthew Vermey - RSM 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, RVR

8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion 2RVR Association

300 Cadet Unit

Victoria Police

Ex-Service Associations

Midlands Golf Club

Ballarat Golf Club

Ballarat East Community Men's Shed

Rotary Club of Alfredton

Rotary Club of Ballarat

Rotary Club of Ballarat South

Rotary Club of Ballarat West

Ballarat and District Girls Guides and Scouts

Ballarat and District schools

The Salvation Army

The Citizens of Ballarat and District

Allan McKinnon

*The Ballarat Sub Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia ensures national remembrance days are commemorated to honour veterans who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our country. We value the community's support and call on you, your school, business or organisation to be involved in the organisation of and participation in future events.*



**MIDLANDS-BALLARAT RSL**  
SPORTS AND SERVICES CLUB



# ANZAC DAY SERVICES



**25 APRIL, 2023**



## Ballarat RSL Sub-branch

We commemorate with great pride and respect, today and every day, the men and women of Australia who have served their country when called upon to do so.

**LEST WE FORGET**

## Australia's World War 1 Nurses

Prior to Australia's Federation in 1901, each colony controlled its own defence force, of which the nursing services formed a part. In July 1903 the nursing services of each colony joined together to form the Australian Army Nursing Service. The Service, which was part of the Australian Army Medical Corps, was made up of volunteer trained nurses who were willing to serve in times of a national emergency.

At the outbreak of World War 1 nurses were recruited from both the Army nursing service and the civilian workforce. There were 2139 Australian nurses who served overseas in WW1 - 25 died, 388 were decorated, 7 were awarded Military Medals for courage under fire and **almost 100 of the nurses were from Ballarat and surrounding district.**

They served at field and base hospitals in Australia as well as in Egypt, England, France, Belgium, Greece, Salonika, Palestine, Mesopotamia and India.

The conditions for Australian Nurses in World War 1 were primitive and harsh, not only the working conditions and hours, but also the living quarters. Often working up to 18 hours per day, and many falling ill themselves, the Australian Nurses who served in World War 1 were certainly deserving of the accolades we now show them. Often referred to as the **"Frontline Angels"** there are many stories of outstanding valour.

Seven AANS nurses, Sisters Dorothy Cawood, Clare Deacon, Mary Jane Derrer, Alicia Kelly, Alice Ross-King, Rachael Pratt and Pearl Corkhill, were awarded the Military Medal, **"for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire"** while working in casualty clearing stations in France. Alice Ross-King was born in Ballarat and Rachael Pratt undertook her nursing training at the Ballarat Hospital. The Hospital's WW1 Honour Board is below -



**Gertrude Munro** was born at Alfredton, Ballarat, the daughter of Mr. Alexander B. and Mrs. Emma P. Munro, of 5 Gillies Street, Alfredton, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. She was educated at Queen's College, Ballarat.

Gertrude completed training at the Ballarat Base Hospital in December 1910 and joined the Australian Nursing Army Service on 22 August 1916. Sister Gertrude Evelyn Munro of the Australian Army Nursing Service died at Salonika of pneumonia and malaria on 10 October 1918 (Roll of Honour states died 10 September 1918 ), aged 36. She is buried at the Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

**6:00am Ballarat Dawn Service**  
**The Cenotaph, Sturt Street**

**MC** Brett Macdonald  
**Bugler** Craig Farrington  
**Piper** Duncan Brown  
**Bishop** Garry Weatherill  
**Catafalque Party** 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn, Royal Victoria Regiment commanded by CPL Daniel Godson;  
**Vocalist** Bayley Mackie  
**Flag party** Ballarat & District Scouts & Guides  
**Ballarat RSL President** Alan Douglass

### Ballarat RSL Gunfire Breakfast

After the Dawn Service, a Gunfire Breakfast will be served at **Midlands – Ballarat RSL Sports and Services Club**. FREE transport to the RSL on **Midlands - Ballarat RSL Courtesy Bus**. Food and drinks will be provided by Ballarat community organisations until 9:30am

### ANZAC Day March and Commemorative Service

Wreaths to be delivered to the Marshal at the corner of Lyons Street and Sturt Street prior to 9:30am

**9:45am - March assembly and form-up**  
Lyons Street North, adjacent to Cenotaph

**10:20am - Flag Party and Drums** march from rear to head of parade in Lyons Street North

### 10:30am - March moves off

Parade led by Alan Douglass will head off for official party acknowledgement and salute at Queen Alexandra Bandstand before arriving at the Cenotaph. Official salute taken by Mayor Cr Des Hudson, MAJ Christopher Fox, Catherine King MP, Juliana Addison MP, Joe McCracken MP, CWO HMAS Ballarat Philip Copley, SUPT Frank Sells Victoria Police

### 11:00am - Commemorative Service

**Welcome** - MC, Reg Mowatt  
**Catafalque Party Mounts** 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn, RVR  
**Flag Raising party** Ballarat Scouts and Guides  
**Welcome** - Mayor, Cr Des Hudson  
**ANZAC Oration** - MAJ Christopher Fox  
**Hymn** - "God Bless Australia" - Sing Australia  
**Prayer** - Reverend Michael O'Brien  
**Recitation**: "Dulce et Decorum Est" - Students - Mikala Lund and Xavier Byrne  
**Piper's Lament** - Aram Haroutunian  
**Wreath Laying** - Allan McKinnon

**Prefix and Ode** - Ballarat RSL President, Alan Douglass

**Last Post** - Craig Farrington

**Bell Tolls** - Dean Ditchfield

**One Minute Silence**

**Rouse** - Craig Farrington

**Pigeon Release** - David Anywl

**Song** - "Let There Be Peace" - Sing Australia

**Benediction** - Reverend Michael O'Brien

**Australian National Anthem**

**New Zealand National Anthem** - Sing Australia

*God Defend New Zealand / Aotearoa*

**Catafalque & Flag Party Dismounts**

### Hymn "God Bless Australia"

Here in this God given land of ours, Australia  
This proud possession, our own piece of earth  
That was built by our fathers, who pioneered our heritage  
Here in Australia, the land of our birth.

### REFRAIN

God bless Australia, Our land Australia  
Home of the Anzac, the strong and the free  
It's our homeland, our own land, to cherish for eternity  
God bless Australia, The land of the free.

Here in Australia, we treasure love and liberty,  
Our way of life, all for one, one for all.  
We're a peace loving race but should danger ever threaten us,

Let the World know we will answer the call.

### REFRAIN

### Song "Let There Be Peace"

Let there be peace on Earth  
And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father  
Children all are we,  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,  
Let this be the moment now;  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

**Refreshments, fellowship and Two Up:**  
Please join us at **Midlands – Ballarat RSL Sports and Services Club** for lunch following the service.  
Two Up will be in the 'Fairways Room' 1 – 6pm



## Sister Blodwyn Elizabeth Williams

Address : Brunswick  
Next of Kin : Father, Tudor Williams, Dowling Street, Ballarat  
(mother Mrs Elizabeth Williams, née Jones)

Blodwyn Williams' background was almost entirely from Ballarat, although her place of residence when she embarked with Reinforcements for the 2 Australian General Hospital on HMAT Orsava, 17 July, 1915 was shown simply as "Brunswick". The reference does not appear within her National Archive file, but given the time between nurses being accepted for overseas service and actually embarking was usually not more than a week, the omission is not unusual).

Her Nursing Certificate was obtained at Ballarat Hospital, but her early military history is a little unusual in that despite being attached to 2 AGH Reinforcements, she did not serve with the unit for any period of time in Egypt. Instead, after arriving in Egypt on 4 August, 1915, she embarked for England on 21 September where she was assigned to 3 London General Hospital where she appears to have served until November, 1916 when she was transferred to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield. She remained there until January, 1918 when she proceeded to France and No. 5 Stationary Hospital at Rouen and later 1 AGH – she was promoted Sister while still in France in December, 1918 while with 1 AGH and returned to England with the unit at the end of the month.

She subsequently returned to Melbourne, disembarking 6 November, 1919, classified as "invalided with pleurisy" and died at 11 Australian General Hospital on 24 May, 1920.

The official cause of death was shown as a carcinoma on the right lung with secondary cause debility and heart failure, but it is also noted that in May, 1919 she was operated on at 1 AGH (still in London) for an abdominal growth and at one stage classified as seriously ill. As Sister Williams' death occurred post-discharge, she is not included on the AWM Roll of Honour; she is one of around ten post-war deaths detected that make the "official" figure of 23 nurses dying "in service", something of a mockery.

She was interred in a family grave at the Ballarat New Cemetery. Her archive is somewhat unusual as it appears the Memorial Scroll was inadvertently issued with the words "He and 'his'" in the first and last lines. Base records subsequently recognised the error and requested return of the Scroll for replacement with the version used for members of the Army Nursing Service.



**OBITUARY : Williams.**— The funeral of the late Sister Blodwyn Williams, of the A.I.F., whose death occurred at the Caulfield Military Hospital, took place on Wednesday, and was largely attended by sympathising friends, and the esteem and respect, in which the deceased and her family were held were clearly evinced by the floral tributes which, were numerous. Sister Williams had served her King, country and Empire for nearly five years, during which she made many friends by her untiring efforts and devotion to duty to our soldier boys under the most trying circumstances and unpleasant conditions. Her remains were removed from her late home, "Llanberris House," the casket being draped with the Union Jack out of respect of her military service, and interred in the family grave at the Ballarat New Cemetery ..."

(Ballarat Star, Friday, 28 May, 1920)

## BALLARAT, SEBASTOPOL AND BUNINYONG SERVICES:

6:00am Ballarat Dawn Service, Cenotaph, Sturt Street

**Followed by Gunfire Breakfast at Midlands - Ballarat RSL Sports and Services Club**

8:00am Arch of Victory Service

8:45am Sebastopol RSL March followed by Commemorative Service

9:00am Ex-Prisoner of War Memorial Service

9:15am St Patrick's Cathedral Church Commemorative Mass

9:45am Ballarat March form-up in Lyons Street North

10:15am Buninyong RSL Service

10:30am Ballarat ANZAC Day March

11:00am Commemorative Service at Cenotaph

Wreath Laying at Cenotaph at conclusion of Commemorative Service

**Refreshments, Fellowship and Two Up:**

Please join us at Midlands - Ballarat RSL Sports and Services Club, for lunch following the service.

'Two Up' will be in the *Fairways Room* from 1 – 6pm

## BALLARAT MARCH INFORMATION

**Assembly:** Chief Marshal Alan Douglass will have overall responsibility for the commemoration march. Participants should complete assembly 30 minutes prior to the expected time for the formation step off. Anyone eligible to be a member of the Returned and Services League of Australia can participate in the march.

Marchers are requested to co-operate with March Marshals in the assembly area and along the march route. All marchers should conform to forming up as directed by a March Official. Veterans are advised to register to use transport provided. Please form up behind the veterans' banner and remain in the buggies until the march is completed.

**Next of kin representation:** *One family member or carer* per veteran is invited to march, who should be old enough to march the full distance and/or push a wheelchair

**Attire** should be neat and tidy out of respect for the fallen. Torn denim, sporting and jogger attire are not appreciated.

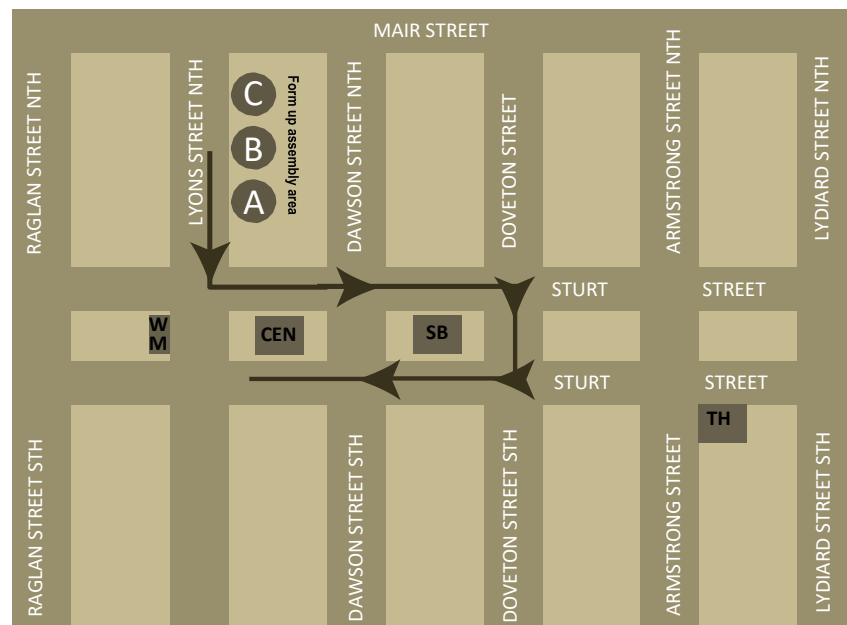
**Prams:** The use of prams and pushers in the march is not supported.

**Electronic Mobility Aids:** EMAs or gophers will be permitted in the march but at the front with the golf buggies.

**Medals:** The wearing of ribbons and medals is encouraged to honour your family's forebears; please place them on your right breast to indicate the medals or awards are not your own. Service medals should only be worn on the left breast by the person who was awarded them.

**Questions:** If you have any questions on the day, please consult one of the Marshals, who can be identified by a shoulder patch inscribed "Parade Marshal".

## MARCH ROUTE



KEY: W Wreath assembly M Marshal point CEN Cenotaph TH Town Hall SB Saluting Bay

## ORDER OF MARCH 2023

## Group A

Marshals - Alan Douglass  
Frank Nuccio, Andrew  
Ottini, Darren Werry

- Parade commander - Alan Douglass
- Flag party
- St Patrick's College Band
- Ballarat Legacy
- Ballarat RSL
- Royal Australian Navy
- 1st AIF Banner
- 2nd AIF Banner
- Air Force Association
- Vietnam Veterans
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Timor and Solomons
- Korean & South East Asia
- Royal Aust. Nursing Corps
- New Zealand Forces
- 2nd AIF in buggies
- Animals at War

## Group B

Marshals - Dean Ditchfield,  
Jay Parsons

- Ballarat City Brass Band
- 8/7th 2RVR Association
- National Servicemen
- Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women
- UK Forces
- Peacekeepers
- Descendants of Veterans

## Group C

Marshals - Captain Margaret  
Benoit, Gavan Dorian, Cadets

- Federation University Pipe Band
- Army cadets
- Scouts
- Guides
- Schools
- SES



This Military Cross, originally awarded to an unknown Australian officer, was part of the estate of Mrs W L Burch (née Curnow), who had served as a nursing sister during the First World War. It is thought that the medal was either given to her by a grateful patient, or had been left with her for safekeeping by a sweetheart who died during the war.

**Isobel Kathleen Curnow** was born at Ballarat, Victoria, and trained there as a nurse at the Ballarat District Hospital. By the time she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service at the age of 34, on 10 May 1915, Curnow had worked both at Ballarat and at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Melbourne, specialising as an operating theatre nurse. Eight days after she enlisted Staff Nurse Curnow sailed for overseas service aboard RMS Mooltan, with the newly raised 3rd Australian General Hospital (3 AGH). The hospital was initially sent to London, but on arrival was sent back to Egypt, and then on to Mudros Island in the Aegean, to nurse casualties from the Gallipoli campaign. At the end of 1915 the staff of 3 AGH returned to Egypt, where the hospital operated until September 1916, when it moved briefly to England and then on to Abbeville in France. Curnow served with both 3 AGH and 1 AGH in this period before being promoted to Sister in May 1917. After this date she was employed in her capacity as a specialist theatre nurse, alternating between 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station and 45 (British) Casualty Clearing Station, with 'rest' periods nursing at 10 Stationary Hospital and 25 (British) General Hospital.

*\*\* Family history reveals that Isobel Curnow was the daughter of the "famous" Thomas Curnow. Thomas was the school teacher who stopped the Kelly gang from derailing the train from Melbourne. This led to their last stand and arrest. Thomas put a red shawl in front of a lantern light, flashing it as a warning to the train driver of danger ahead \*\**

This photograph depicts the Sister-in-charge with a group of Melbourne District Nursing Society (MDNS) Trained nurses with their bicycles, which were the first mode of transport purchased by MDNS in 1903. The bicycles enabled the Nurses to visit more patients over a wider area.



They are identified as: L-R back row: Trained Nurses Taylor, Steele, Francis, Young. L-R front row: **Isobel Curnow**, Annie Roberts, Isabel Hawkes (Sister in Charge), Becker. Their uniforms were a grey cotton dress with white collar, cuffs and belt and there was a red Maltese cross on their pith helmets. They gave nursing care to the poor in the inner Melbourne and close surrounding areas (districts).