To whom it may concern,

In this, the Centenary of the Year of Peace, you/your family and/or school is invited to join us for an historic National Peace Project at the Australian War Memorial to celebrate the Centenary of Peace Day (19 July, 1919) and help us make a giant peace poppy on the Forecourt.

- Friday 19 July, 2019
- 2pm-4pm
- Australian War Memorial

The Education Team from the Australian War Memorial have been working closely with the OZY Youth Choir Honouring Defence Service to create a deeply engaging educational experience for all involved. The afternoon will include an educational tour of the Memorial with special reference to the 15 Values in the Hall of Memory, a procession from the Hall of Memory through the Commemorative area to the forecourt outside the Memorial, the forming and filming of a giant peace poppy on the forecourt and singing together as an "improptu" Peace Choir.

The Peace Project is an initiative of The OZY Youth Choir Honouring Defence.

It is an opportunity to engage young people to:

- Stand for Peace
- Stand for Veteran's and their families
- Sing to Remember
- Rethink Remembrance for the Next Generation

Peace Projects have already been held in, Rouen (France), Sydney, Bondi Beach, Adelaide, Wagga Wagga, also in partnership with Sydney Invictus Games 2018.

See the Peace Project website here. Click on the archives tab in the menu.

Although the Centenary of Peace Day falls during the school holidays, we would love you to be involved. As we have limited numbers available, we would appreciate you registering your interest with us as soon as possible.

To register your interest, please email:

AWM Peace Project Attention: Janette Dunn

awm@peaceproject.org.au

Basic Outline of Education Program for July 19, 2019

Gallery program to be delivered to students during their visit on 19 July: *We will remember them* Program outline: This program explores the reasons why we continue to remember the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women, particularly on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year. Students will investigate the symbolism of the Memorial's Commemorative Area, identify a name on the Roll of Honour, and explore the Hall of Memory, noting the values included on stained glass windows. They will also have the opportunity to visit the galleries, hearing stories of those who have served in various conflicts in which Australians have served. Suitable for primary and secondary school students (Year 4 - 12). This program is adapted by education staff to suit students at different learning levels.

Our improptu Peace Choir will sing two songs. You do not need any prior singing or music experience to take part in the singing.

We will have soloists and small groups sing the verses, so "the Peace Choir" will only need to join in the choruses. If you don't have time to practise the songs, we can assure you the choruses will be able to be picked up on the day! You will receive a copy of the songs once you have registered. If you or your school have a choir and would like to practise and/or perform the songs, you will also have access to the music, lyric sheets and rehearsal tracks should you wish to use them.

We will record the event and produce a video of the event as we did on Bondi Beach. You can view it here: Bondi Beach Peace Project Launch

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Janette Dunn

The AWM National Peace Project Coordinator

The OZY Youth Choir Honouring Defence Service, Inc.

- Phone 0428 123 877
- Email awm@peaceproject.org.au
- Websites www.peaceproject.org.au + www.oyc.org.au

Peace Day 1919

The Treaty of Versailles, signed on 28 June 1919, formally ended hostilities. To mark this final ending of 'the war to end all wars' major buildings were decorated with flags. On 30 June church services were held and Australian and British ships fired a 101-gun salute in Sydney Harbour. Official celebrations were held on Saturday 19 July, which was declared 'Peace Day' throughout the British Empire. On the Friday many schools held ceremonies, often including recognition of teachers or former pupils who had served or died. In some suburbs, such as Annandale, Petersham and Redfern, a number of schools combined for joint ceremonies of commemoration including marches and sports carnivals. All schoolchildren were given a peace medal to commemorate the end of the war.

On Peace Day in Sydney major buildings were decorated, bells were rung in churches and public buildings, and huge crowds flocked to the city. Unlike the delirious rejoicing of November 1918, this was a sober celebration and recognition of the huge sacrifice of death and disability among those who served. Indeed, some objected to any celebrations and urged that the money be spent instead to benefit the children of fallen soldiers. The government eventually agreed to scale back its initially ambitious plans.

The major event was a march through the city by more than 10,000 sailors and soldiers, Red Cross and other war workers, a parade which stretched for more than three miles. 'There can never be another sight like it' proclaimed the *Sydney Morning Herald.* At 11.30 am the parade halted, the bands and choirs played and sang Kipling's 'Recessional', joined by many spectators, bugles sounded the 'Last Post' and three minutes of silence were observed across the city in commemoration of the fallen. A 21-gun salute was fired from the Domain at noon. The afternoon was given over to a regatta on the Harbour and a variety of sporting events. At night, buildings and ships in the harbour were illuminated, there was a fireworks display, and a chain of bonfires was lit around the Harbour and in many suburbs. Although it had been hoped that similar activities could be held in the various suburbs, Sydney was the focus for the day's activities, a fact which caused some complaint.

Many special religious services were held on the Sunday, either in individual churches or as combined services in local parks or halls, often in conjunction with parades of children and returned servicemen. As had occurred in 1918 when the peace treaty was signed, prisoners were granted remissions of a portion of their sentences, including five military offenders who had been convicted of desertion.

The war to end all wars was finally over.

https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/celebrating_the_end_of_world_war_i