



EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS

**VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC DAY
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

**Saturday 15th August 2026
10.45 a.m.**

CENOTAPH, BORONIA PARK, EPPING

**THIS SERVICE IS DEDICATED TO THE
HALLOWED MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED
THAT WE MAY LIVE
AND HAVE BOUNTEOUS PEACE**

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE

Memorial Wreath Laying Service

Greater Love has no one than this,
that he lay down his life for his friends

Master of Ceremonies: Les Rowe

Catafalque Party: 322 Squadron AAF Cadet Corps

Piper – Ian McGrath

WELCOME TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Major Andrew Brayshaw (Retd), sub-Branch President

Prologue

Brigadier Dr David Leece AM PSM RFD ED (Retd)

Prayer for Defence Forces

Minister Tom Barrett

ACT OF COMMEMORATION

CDTSGT Dana Kim and CDTLCPL Dean Gao

James Ruse Agricultural High School Army Cadet Unit

O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Prayer for Australia

Minister Tom Barrett

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Master of Ceremonies will call for floral tributes to be placed at the Cenotaph.

1. Sub-Branch and Club Presidents jointly place wreaths.
2. All other wreath bearers when called upon.

The Ode

Thomas Bremner and Bert McCracken
Epping Boy High School

LAST POST

SILENCE IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED COMRADES

ROUSE

BENEDICTION – Minister Tom Barrett

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free.
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea.
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.

VP Day 15 August - Historical Background

Victory in Europe (VE) Day

On 7 May 1945 the German High Command authorised the signing of an unconditional surrender on all fronts: the war in Europe was over. The surrender was to take effect at midnight on 8–9 May 1945. The following day, 8 May, was declared VE (Victory in Europe) Day, but in Australia, celebration was tempered with the knowledge that the war in the Pacific was still to be won.

Australians serving overseas joined wholeheartedly in the celebrations. While in the major Australian cities there were similar outbursts of rejoicing, overall, the mood across the country was sombre. Churches held thanksgiving services, and on 9 May 100,000 people attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. On that day, in Canberra, the editorial writer of The Canberra Times fancied that the floodlights over the Australian War Memorial stood “in bright relief against the darkness, which is now passing from Europe, and soon from the entire world”.

VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day

VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day, also referred to as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, is celebrated on 15 August. This date commemorates Japan’s acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender 14 August 1945. For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

The following day, 15 August, is usually referred to as VP Day. In August 1945 Australian governments gazetted a public holiday as VP Day and most newspapers reported it as such. However, the governments of Britain, the United States and New Zealand preferred VJ Day. It is not true, as some have claimed, that the day was originally called VJ and that the name was surreptitiously changed later.

Australian War Memorial Encyclopedia