



BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATION

Honouring those who served on land and sea
and in the air repulsing the direct threat
to Australia, 1942-1945

THE CENOTAPH
MARTIN PLACE, SYDNEY
WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024
AT 11.00am



Arrival of

His Excellency The Hon Andrew Bell, Lieutenant Governor of NSW

Announced by Master of Ceremonies Dr Darren Mitchell OAM
Vice-President, Committee BFAA (NSW)

Catafalque Party Mounts

Welcome and Introduction

Dr Darren Mitchell OAM

Acknowledgement of Country

SGT Lachlan Youll, Australian Army

Hymn: Abide With Me (Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Prayer of Remembrance

Rev Geoffrey R Usher - Committee BFAA (NSW)

The Captives' Hymn (Margaret Dryburgh, 1890-1945)

Sydney Women's Vocal Orchestra

Commemoration Address

BRIG Phillip Bridie AM ADC, Honorary Colonel, Royal NSW Lancers

Poem: Kokoda Pilgrimage (Gordon Maitland, 1926-2018)

Gideon Waker, Mosman Church of England Preparatory School

Laying of Floral Tributes

His Excellency will lay the first tribute

Accompanied by The Lament – Piper Robert Pearce OAM
and Australian Army Band - Sydney

Ode of Remembrance (Laurence Binyon, 1869-1943)

Ms Kelly Randall - Junior Legatee

Last Post

Sacred Silence

Rouse

Hymn: The Recessional (Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936)

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine -
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

Far called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headline sinks the fire:
Lo, all the pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

Australian National Anthem

Prayer for Peace

Rev Geoffrey R Usher - Committee BFAA (NSW)

Catafalque Party Dismounts

Departure of His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor of NSW

THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA

This year marks the 82nd anniversary of Prime Minister John Curtin's 16 February 1942 "Battle for Australia" speech which foreshadowed the momentous battles on land, sea and in the air in Australia's immediate and adjacent operational areas following the Fall of Singapore the day before.

On 19 June 2008, His Excellency, Major-General The Honourable Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retd), Governor General of Australia, proclaimed the "Battle for Australia Day" to be a National Day of Remembrance, to be held annually on the first Wednesday in September.

<https://www.battleforaustralia.asn.au/>

The Battle for Australia Association (NSW) Inc acknowledges the support of many people and organisations in the conduct of this service:

- BRIG Phillip Bridie AM ADC
- SGT Lachlan Youll
- Sydney Women's Vocal Orchestra
- Mosman Church of England Preparatory School
- Ms Kelly Randall, Junior Legatee, and Sydney Legacy
- Piper Robert Pearce OAM
- Australian Army Band - Sydney
- Catafalque Party – RAAF Base Richmond
- Custodians of the Cenotaph, and RSL NSW
- WO1 Darryl Holzhauser, RSM Joint Ceremonial NSW/ACT
- St John Ambulance (NSW) Sydney University Division