

HONOURING THE PAST, WELCOMING THE FUTURE: ANZAC Day, new citizens, and Ross Men's Shed show community spirit

LEST WE FORGET: NORTHERN MIDLANDS COMMEMORATES ANZAC DAY

This date is the anniversary of the day Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on the beaches of Gallipoli in 1915 as part of the Allies' invasion. More than 1.5 million people have served Australia in all conflicts, wars and peace operations. This is also a time to remember some 103,000 Australians who lost their lives while serving.

The Northern Midlands community will come together on Friday, April 25, to honour the sacrifices of Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women at ANZAC Day services across the Northern Midlands. Residents are invited to attend dawn services, marches, and wreath-laying ceremonies to pay tribute to those who have served in conflicts past and present.

This year's commemorations will reflect on the enduring ANZAC spirit of mateship, courage, and sacrifice, with local RSL sub-branches and community groups organising events in towns including Bishopsbourne, Avoca, Longford, Evandale, Cressy, Perth, Ross and Campbell Town.



ABOVE: Ross Dawn Service 2024

ANZAC Day is an opportunity for us to honour those who have served and those who continue to serve our nation. It is a day of remembrance, but also a reminder of the values that define our community—resilience, respect, and unity.

Location	Organising Committee	Service time/s
Campbell Town Cenotaph	Campbell Town ANZAC Committee	6:00AM dawn 10:45AM parade 11:00AM main
Evandale Community Hall	Evandale History Society	6:00AM dawn 11:00AM main
Longford Village Green	Northern Midlands RSL	6:00AM dawn 10:30AM parade 11:00AM main
Ross Cenotaph	Ross RSL	6:00AM dawn vigil
Cressy Main Street	Northern Midlands RSL	8:30AM road closure 9:00AM service
Perth Cenotaph	Northern Midlands RSL	8:45AM parade 9:00AM service
Bishopsbourne Cenotaph	Community	9:00AM service
Avoca Cenotaph	Northern Midlands RSL	10.45AM parade from Post Office 11AM service

HARMONY WEEK UNITES HEARTS: AUSTRALIA WELCOMES FOUR NEW CITIZENS



LEFT: Mayor Mary Knowles OAM welcomes Stephanie Tait with friend Jo Tyler
RIGHT: Madel Hickey surrounded by friends and family

In a heartwarming citizenship ceremony held shortly after Harmony Week, Australia proudly welcomed four new citizens who pledged their allegiance to the Land Down Under. Celebrating the nation's rich cultural diversity, the ceremony was a poignant moment as individuals from different backgrounds embraced their new Australian identity. As part of the country's ongoing commitment to inclusivity, Australia continues to open its doors to people from all corners of the globe, valuing the unique contributions each citizen brings. The ceremony echoed the resounding message that everyone belongs in the tapestry of this multicultural nation.

Although Harmony Week has ended, its spirit of unity and understanding continues to resonate across Australia. The pledges of allegiance from the four new Australians symbolized a shared commitment to building a harmonious and inclusive society. Recognizing the country's deep cultural heritage, the ceremony also acknowledged that Australia's multicultural identity extends beyond recent arrivals. It paid tribute to the First Nations people, whose cultures and histories have endured for an astonishing 65,000 years. Their resilience and contributions form the foundation of modern multicultural Australia, creating a nation that celebrates diversity while honouring its past.

As we celebrate the addition of four new members to the Australian family, the overarching message remains clear: diversity is the strength that binds us together, and in this great southern land, everyone belongs.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES: ROSS MEN'S SHED EXPANSION UNDERWAY

The Ross Men's Shed is set to expand, bringing new opportunities for social connection, learning, and community projects, thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Investing in Communities Program and contributions from the Ross Masonic Lodge and the Northern Midlands Council. With construction well underway, the expansion includes a 22m by 7m kit shed with a verandah, an accessible toilet and shower facility, and additional work areas. These improvements will enhance accessibility for members who have mobility challenges, increase capacity, and create a more functional space for members to collaborate on projects.

Men's Sheds have long been a staple of Australian communities, offering a modern take on the traditional backyard shed where mates can come together, share skills, and support one another. Located at 9 Bond Street, Ross, the Men's Shed has played a vital role in the community since securing a long-term lease in 2020, providing a welcoming space for residents to engage in meaningful hands-on work while forming lasting friendships. The Ross Men's Shed is a shining example of the strong community spirit we have in the Northern Midlands. This expansion will ensure that more people can benefit from the Shed's welcoming environment, where skills are shared, friendships are formed, and people can contribute in meaningful ways.

The Men's Shed movement has become one of the most powerful initiatives in supporting men's health and wellbeing, offering a place where individuals can stay active, engaged, and socially connected. While some Men's Sheds offer inclusive opportunities for people with disabilities, they are not NDIS providers. However, they provide a supportive space for all members of the community to learn and grow. For more information on Men's Sheds, visit www.mensshed.org. To join the Longford Men's Shed, contact Bob Thomas on **0418 390 479**. To join the Ross Men's Shed, contact Baden Helm on **0409 358 769**.

BELOW: Ross Men's Shed at Bond Street, Ross. RIGHT: Extension Plans for the Ros Men's Shed

