

Vet News

Austin
HEALTH

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Anzac Day 2022

A limited number of people were able to gather for Austin Health's 2022 Anzac Day Service this year.



Above: After a long wait, it was great to see people back at the Repat to commemorate Anzac Day. Right: Wreaths laid out prior to being laid in the Remembrance Garden.



We were incredibly lucky to have members of the Greek Presidential Guard on hand with us to commemorate 80 years since fighting in Greece and Crete. This came about through a plaque previously laid in the Remembrance Garden honouring these conflicts. The group received special permission from the Greek president to take part in the Austin Health ceremony including two members who were dressed in traditional uniforms and who stood guard for the duration of the ceremony.





Above: Nice to have Journalist Maggie Raworth reporting on the event for Channel Nine News, along with representatives from Channel 31.

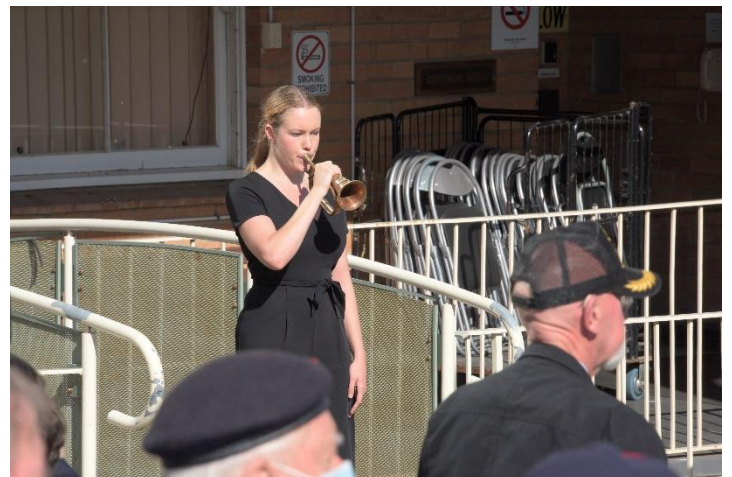


Above: Austin Health Board Member, Joel Chibert, joins Dennis Emery and Kate Duck from the Austin Health Spiritual Care Department in laying a wreath remembering the Indigenous members of Australia's Defence Forces.

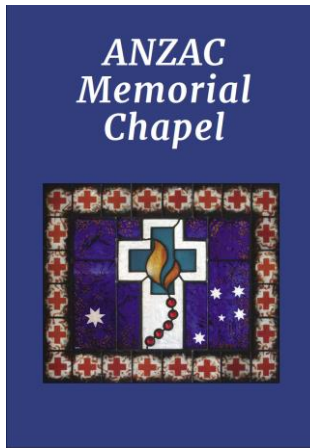


Left: Vietnam Veteran Graeme McSolvin and his wife Jenny, pictured with Bugler Kathleen O'Reilly, who performed the Last Post and Reveille.

Kathleen O'Reilly Bugler (left) has been prominent at the services held by the Veteran Liaison Department for a number of years. Originally introduced to the role by Graeme McSolvin (above) we have watched her grow through her Secondary and University years. She still finds time to support us a number of times a year and we are grateful for her time and commitment.



Wreaths are laid in the Remembrance Garden by a number of different groups as well as individuals at all of our Services. They are also left independently at various plaques throughout the year. They are a wonderful addition to the lovely garden used by staff, patients and visitors alike.



(L-R) Danielle Edwards, Alison McMillan and Allison Whitby were all instrumental in the development of the Anzac Memorial Chapel and were all on hand to launch the new book, pictured left.

The book is available from the Veteran Liaison Team at the Repat.



Above (L-R) Terry Makings, Vice President RSL State Branch (Vic) and Shrine Governor reciting the Ode. Noel Blake, President NSAA (Northern Branch) tolls the Bell for those mentioned in the “Forever Young” of the program. Michael Mosley, Vietnam Veteran and Austin Health Volunteer, lays a White Wreath remembering those who have taken their own lives.

Left: Kate Thwaites MP, Member for Jagajaga and Chris Gray laying wreaths in the Garden.

Right: Austin Health’s Greek Interpreter, Stavroula Antonopoulos, presents our visitors with an Australian Flag which previously flew in the Remembrance Garden at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.



Shown in the photograph (right) is a memorabilia display relating the Registered Nurse Terri Lessels (nee Lombe) who trained at the hospital in the Number Four School. The School of General Nursing operated at the Repat from 1948 – 1989. A total of 104 programs were conducted and 1021 Registered General Nurses successfully graduated. The items will be displayed in the Duckboard Function Centre and the Colour Patch Museum.

Terri now resides in Canberra and has made a number of trips to the Repat for Commemorative Services over the years. She has extremely fond memories of her nursing days when she cared for Sir Thomas Blamey, Sir John Gorton, Ted Kenna V.C. and War Artists Ivor Heale and William Dargie.



Left: “Simpson” dutifully obeys compulsory mask wearing at the hospital. Above: Piper David Cretney, Watsonia RSL Pipes & Drums, playing the Lament. David is an integral part of our Anzac Day Service.

Photos in this extra special edition of Vet News were provided by Veteran Liaison, David Walsh, Danielle Edwards and Gale Spring.



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