

**Event brief for Commemorative Procession and Commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles,
Hyde Park, Sydney, Sunday 19 July 2026**

<p>Event date, day and time of commencement:</p>	<p>Sunday 19th July 2026 10:10 for 10:30 Commemorative Procession from the Archibald Fountain to the Anzac Memorial 10:55 Commemoration Service in the Anzac Memorial Auditorium 11:55 Wreath-laying, Star Ceremony, Last Post Ceremony, Australian National Anthem in the Hall of Memory Closing at 12:15 pm followed by light refreshments and Exhibition in the Auditorium.</p>
<p>Event name: (and nature of event)</p>	<p>Commemorative Service for the Battle of Fromelles The Service commemorates the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles in northern France, the first battle involving Australian troops on the Western Front following the withdrawal from Gallipoli. It was a tragic disaster, with 2,117 Australian soldiers killed and died of wounds in the lead up to the battle and as a consequence of the battle. 1,813 were killed during combat and 252 died of wounds after the battle. In addition, there were more than 3,500 Australian soldiers wounded and 479 taken prisoner (36 of whom died of wounds and 6 of other causes), totalling more than 6,000 casualties. 814 British soldiers were killed or died of wounds at, or because of, the Battle of Fromelles. The British High Command described these 2,931 deaths as occurring during an “important raid” in which 140 prisoners were captured. German casualties were 469 killed and 978 wounded and 206 missing. In 2008, the graves of 250 soldiers buried by the Germans after the battle were located and in 2010 reinterred in the new Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and 181 of these soldiers have now been identified by name. Major Commemorative Services for the Battle of Fromelles will be held at Fromelles, Melbourne as well as Sydney. The 2026 Commemorative Procession and Commemoration will be constrained by the seating capacity of the Anzac Memorial Auditorium and Hall of Memory for wreath laying with attendance limited to approximately 70 attendees.</p>
<p>Brief description of event: (purpose / background)</p>	<p>To raise awareness of and commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian soldiers in the Battle of Fromelles. The Commemoration will be preceded by a Commemorative Procession from the Archibald Fountain to the Anzac Memorial celebrating the bond between Australia and France in The Great War. The Procession re-enacts the final march of the veterans of the 5th Division on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles (19 July 1966) to the Anzac Memorial to request that the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial to always remember on 19 July the sacrifice of the 8,100 soldiers of the 5th Division Killed in Action during the First World War and those who had died since. It also symbolically represents crossing the “400 yards” of “No-man’s land” on the Fromelles battlefield. The Commemoration at the Anzac Memorial will be a formal occasion with dignitaries and representatives of the Australian Army, descendants and ex-service organisations. The Commemorative Service will be followed by light refreshments with an Exhibition of Fromelles related art and images in the Auditorium.</p>
<p>Host organisation(s) / Event invitation from: (Name, role / title)</p>	<p>Families and Friends of the First AIF (FFFAIF), in conjunction with the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial</p>
<p>Event Venue: (street address)</p>	<p>10:10 for 10:30 Commemorative Procession from the Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park North to the Anzac Memorial 10:55 Commemoration Service in the Anzac Memorial Auditorium, Hyde Park South 11:47 Move to the Anzac Memorial Hall of Memory 11:55 Wreath-laying, Last Post Ceremony, Star Ceremony, National Anthem in the Hall of Memory Closing at 12:15 pm followed by light refreshments and Exhibition in the Auditorium.</p>
<p>Dress Code:</p>	<p>Lounge suit, Day wear, Decorations /Medals, Poppy umbrellas</p>
<p>Preparation)</p>	<p>To be familiar with the significance of the Battle of Fromelles, view the extraordinary Fromelles Documentary produced by the Students of St Clare’s College, Waverley for an overview of the battle as well as an appreciation of its impact on families and the significance of the Battle of Fromelles in Australian history today in addition to highlighting the students’ work.</p>

	<p>A Background briefing on the Battle is available and reports of previous Commemorations are available for viewing and downloading at <u>Fromelles (ffaif.org.au)</u>.</p>
<p>Order of Proceedings: (with associated timings)</p>	<p>A final Running Sheet will be issued prior to the Commemoration</p> <p>10:10-10:20 Arrival of Dignitaries at the Archibald Fountain, Welcome, clarification of any organisational arrangements.</p> <p>10:25 Assembly of Procession by the Procession Marshall</p> <p>10:30 Commemorative Procession steps off to arrive at the Anzac Memorial at 10:50 and participants proceed to the Anzac Memorial Auditorium for entry at 10:55.</p> <p>10:57 Master of Ceremonies invites participants to stand for the Dignitaries and for the National Flags party to enter the Auditorium.</p> <p>10:59 Flag Bearers place flags in Flag stands</p> <p>11:00 Commemoration Service in the Anzac Memorial Auditorium guided by the Master of Ceremonies</p> <p>11:47 Move to the Anzac Memorial Hall of Memory</p> <p>11:55 Wreath-laying, Last Post Ceremony, Star Ceremony, Australian National Anthem in the Hall of Memory</p> <p>12:15 Official Proceedings conclude, Exhibition of Fromelles related art and images with light refreshments, Formal farewells and meeting with guests.</p>
<p>Running Order: (guest arrivals, formalities, departures, conclusion)</p>	<p>At the Archibald Fountain</p> <p>10:10 35m COMMEMORATIVE PROCESSION</p> <p>10:15 Participants in the Commemorative Procession are welcomed at the Archibald Fountain on arrival and directed to their assembly location by the Procession Marshall.</p> <p>Dignitaries will be allocated a numbered Order of Service which will be their position in the Procession, and allocated seat in the Auditorium.</p> <p>10:20 Assembly of Procession in Auditorium seating order by the Procession Marshall commences.</p> <p>10:20 Welcome to dignitaries, clarification of any organisational arrangements including Wreath laying sequence</p> <p>10:30 Commemorative Procession steps off to arrive at the Anzac Memorial at 10:50</p> <p>In the Anzac Memorial Auditorium</p> <p>* Signifies 1 minute allowed for transition of presenters</p> <p>10:45 Band plays Gathering Music as Guests are seated (seating plans will be available in the Auditorium)</p> <p>10: 50 Arrival of Commemorative Procession at the Anzac Memorial and proceeds to the Auditorium.</p> <p>10:55 Flag Bearers taking up their position either side of the Auditorium entry doors as the Procession participants enter the Auditorium.</p> <p>10:57 Entry of Dignitaries</p> <p>10:58 All stand for Australian and French Flags and 55Bn Colours to enter the Auditorium.</p> <p>10:59 Flag Bearers place flags in Flag stands</p> <p>11:00 46m* THE COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE</p> <p>11:01 Master of Ceremonies invites participants to be seated for the Commemoration Service</p> <p>11:02 2m O Valiant Hearts – led by Vocalist Carolynne Szady, Fire + Rescue NSW</p> <p>11:05 5m WELCOME and PROLOGUE: Call to Commemoration and Message from the Governor General: Dr Darren Mitchell OAM</p> <p>11:10 2m* ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY: Mr Harry Allie BEM AM</p> <p>11:13 2m* PRAYER led by Chaplain Keith Walker, Chaplain RSL LifeCare Anzac Village</p> <p>11:16 3m Abide with Me – led by Vocalist Carolynne Szady</p> <p>11:20 6m* FAMILY REFLECTION: Royce Atkinson, a Fromelles descendant, reflecting on the experience of the Mathew Kepple and the impact of the loss of Matthew at Fromelles and other soldiers, on the family and their mining community. Matthew had no known grave until 2009 and was one of the Australian soldiers re-interred in the new CWGC Cemetery in 2010.</p> <p>11:27 2m PRAYER AND BLESSING led by Chaplain Keith Walker</p>

	<p>11:29 3m* MESSAGE FROM FRANCE, (TBC) Mr Guillaume Dabouis, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France</p> <p>11:33 3m* EPILOGUE: (TBC) General the Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd), FFFAIF Honorary Patron</p> <p>11:37 8m THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF FRANCE, NZ & UK – led by Vocalist Carolynne Szady, Fire + Rescue NSW</p> <p>11:45 2m Master of Ceremonies outlines arrangements in the Hall of Memory for the Star Ceremony, 5th Division wreath-laying, Last Post Ceremony and Australian National Anthem.</p> <p>11:47 8m* THE RECESSIONAL and PROCEED TO THE HALL OF MEMORY</p> <p>In the Anzac Memorial Hall of Memory</p> <p>11:55 20m WREATH LAYING, LAST POST & STAR CEREMONIES</p> <p>11:55 8m WREATH LAYING CEREMONY including the 5th DIVISION WREATH while Lament is played by Piper Jim Braid,</p> <p>12:03 1m* THE ODE recited by (TBC) General the Honourable David Hurley</p> <p>12:05 2m THE LAST POST Bugler Bandsman Terry McCleary</p> <p>12:07 1m SILENCE</p> <p>12:08 1m THE ROUSE Bugler Bandsman Terry McCleary</p> <p>12:09 2m* COMMEMORATIVE STAR CEREMONY</p> <p>12:11 3m* THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF AUSTRALIA – led by Vocalist Carolynne Szady, Fire + Rescue NSW</p> <p>12:15 Event concludes: Formal farewells and light refreshments with an Exhibition of Fromelles related art and images, meeting with guests. At their convenience, Dignitaries depart.</p>
<p>Who will meet guests on arrival: (name, position, mobile phone number)</p>	<p>10:15 At the Archibald Fountain <i>Mr John Skene</i>, FFFAIF Committee Member (mobile 0407 259 391) and <i>Lt. Col Paul Simadas RFD</i>, FFFAIF Vice President and Marshall of the Procession</p> <p>10:45 At the Anzac Memorial <i>Mrs Margaret Snodgrass OAM</i> FFFAIF Committee Member <i>Mr Chris Bryett</i> FFFAIF Committee Member (mobile 0419 636 028) and <i>Dr Darren Mitchell OAM</i>, Master of Ceremonies.</p>
<p>Number of attendees: (complete guest list required 5 days before event)</p>	<p>65 for Commemorative Procession 72 for Commemoration Service</p>
<p>Guest list:</p>	<p>The Invitation list is appended. As acceptances are received, the Guest List will be updated.</p>
<p>Media arrangements:</p>	<p>The Commemorative Procession and Commemoration will be photographed and videoed and posted to the Anzac Memorial and FFFAIF web-sites Mainstream media have been advised of the Commemorative Procession and Commemoration Service As Commemorative Services for the Battle of Fromelles will be held at Fromelles, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, the media may include this Commemoration in national coverage along with those in France and Melbourne.</p>
<p>Seating</p>	<p>Seating plans will incorporate safe physical distancing with seat separation of 0.3 metres.</p>
<p>Any other details you consider relevant:</p>	<p>Wreath-laying will occur in the Hall of Memory of the Anzac Memorial. For those participating in the Commemorative Procession, wreaths can be carried as part of the Procession from the Archibald Fountain or left at the Anzac Memorial prior to the Procession.</p>
<p>Contact person: Name, position, phone numbers (including mobile)</p>	<p><i>Mr Jim Munro</i>, President FFFAIF, can be contacted at president@fffaif.org.au or on 0419 636 028. <i>Lt. Col Paul Simadas RFD</i>, FFFAIF Vice President is organiser for the Commemorative Procession and can be contacted at vice-president@fffaif.org.au or on 0418 461 956. <i>Ms Jill Hayes</i>, FFFAIF Committee Member, is the contact person for dignitaries RSVPs at rsvp@fffaif.org.au or on 0458 571 612 <i>Mr Chris Bryett</i>, FFFAIF Committee Member, can be contacted on 0419 636 028. <i>Mr John Skene</i>, FFFAIF Committee Member, can be contacted on 0407 259 391</p>
<p>Brief prepared by:</p>	<p>Jim Munro, President Families and Friends of First AIF Version 1 dated 8 May 2026</p>