

# MOOLOOLABA BEACH ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE



THE SURF CLUB  
MOOLOOLABA

*Lovin' locals!*

91.1 HOT FM will be broadcasting the Service live across the Sunshine Coast, from 5.00 am

## PROGRAMME 2026

**SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026**  
SERVICE STARTS 4.55 AM  
SERVICE CONCLUDES 6.00 AM



2026 marks the 17th Dawn Service held at Mooloolaba Beach, providing locals and visitors with an opportunity to honour and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many brave men and women.

This Service is delivered by Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club and The Surf Club Mooloolaba. Mooloolaba SLSC has a proud history of support for its veteran members, including Vietnam and young Veterans.

THE LAST ANZAC



Alexander William  
"Alex" Campbell

26 February 1899-16 May 2002



## VETERANS MARCH ON CATAFALQUE PARTY MOUNTS

Parade Marshal WO1 Steve McDonald  
Soldiers of 9th Battalion, Royal Queensland  
Regiment, Commanded by CPL Rico Croon

*Flag Bearers. Mooloolaba SLSC Junior Cadets*

## WELCOME ADDRESS DIDGERIDOO SOLO HAKA GUEST SPEAKER HYMN RECESSIONAL PRAYER

AVM Peter Yates, AM, CSC  
Mr Peter Tilney  
Haka Group  
Major Michael Sloane (Ret'd)  
Sunshine Coast Grammar School Bel Canto Choir  
Ms Lucinda Vinnicombe

## WREATH LAYING *The Piper Mr Ian Power will play a lament during the wreath laying*

- 9th Infantry Battalion AIF
  - Royal Australian Navy
  - The Australian Army
  - Royal Australian Air Force
  - State Member for Maroochydore
  - Sunshine Coast Mayor
  - Queensland Police Service (QPS)
  - Mooloolaba SLSC President
  - Mooloolaba SLSC Club Captain
  - Mooloolaba SLSC Junior Lifesavers
- 9th Battalion CSM WO2 Owen Trevorrow  
LS Brian Biddle (Rtd)  
CPL Glen Day, (Rtd)  
WOFF Bob Stewart, RAAF, (Rtd)  
Ms Fiona Simpson MLA  
Rosanna Natoli  
SC Acting Superintendent Christopher Toohey  
Trent Robinson  
Rachael Robinson

*Mooloolaba SLSC Junior Lifesavers will lay 12 wreaths, representing Australia and New Zealand's past campaigns, wars, peacekeeping missions, and nurses*

## ODE LAST POST SOLO ONE MINUTE SILENCE

Lieutenant Daniel Sheelan  
Trumpeter Mr Allan Lanham

*Surf boat crews will lay wreaths in honour of those who fought with the Armed Forces of Australia and New Zealand, then toss oars as a mark of respect. Wreaths will be laid off shore (subject to conditions)*

## FLOWERS OF FOREST REVEILLE NZ NATIONAL ANTHEM AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Piper Mr Benjamin Mackie  
Trumpeter Mr Allan Lanham  
Mr Graeme Stewart  
Sunshine Coast Grammar School Bel Canto Choir

## CATAFALQUE PARTY DISMOUNTS



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## Prayer

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Dear Lord in Heaven, today we honour our war Veterans.  
Those who have died, suffered and are still suffering  
because they gave their best when called to protect our,  
and others' freedoms, way of life and heritage.  
They have been where others feared to go.  
They have done what others failed to do.  
They have seen the face of terror.  
They have felt the stinging cold of fear.  
And to those who remain with us still, let them know  
that we, the protected, are so very, very proud of them.

We ask you to watch over, guard and protect the men  
and women of our Country, who this ANZAC morning,  
are manning the ramparts and watchtowers of freedom  
in places far from home.  
God, embrace them all and reserve a special place for  
them in Your Kingdom.  
Amen

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## ODE

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**From the poem "To the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)**

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

**We will remember them.**

# THE HISTORY OF THE DAWN SERVICE

MOOLOOLABA BEACH  
**ANZAC DAY**  
DAWN SERVICE



On 25th April 1923, at Albany in Western Australia, the Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of a Dawn parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured, Australia-wide ever since.

As the sun was rising, a man in a small dinghy cast a wreath into King George Sound while White with a band of about 20 men gathered around him on the summit of nearby Mount Clarence, silently watched the wreath floating out to sea. He then quietly recited the words: "As the sun rises and goes down, we will remember them". All present were deeply moved and news of the Ceremony soon spread throughout the country; and the various Returned Service Communities Australia-wide emulated the Ceremony.

Eventually, Reverend White was transferred from Albany to serve other congregations, the first in South Australia, then Broken Hill where he built a church, then later at Forbes. In his retirement from parish life, he moved to Herberton where he became the Chaplain of an Anglican convent. However, soon after his arrival (26 September, 1954) he died, to be buried so modestly and anonymously as 'A Priest'.

White's memory is honoured by a stained glass window in the All Soul's Church at Wirrinya, a small farming community near Forbes. Members of the parish have built the church with their own hands and have put up what they refer to as 'The Dawn Service Window', as their tribute to White's service to Australia.

In a small cemetery some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton is a grave bearing the simple inscription on a cross, just two words 'A Priest'.

In recent times a marker has been placed next to the grave. It reads:

"Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker, lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and padre, 44th Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force.

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## Tribute to Douglas John Schmidt

Doug Schmidt never intended to become a soldier. He was a printer by trade, a champion water polo player and a dedicated member of the Mooloolaba Surf Lifesaving Club.

That all changed in 1968 when, like a lot of young men of his generation, he was called up for National Service.

Doug did his initial and corps training alongside good surf club mate Greg Hargreaves and, at the end of it, both signed up to serve with 4 Field Regiment RAA, knowing it was slated for deployment to Vietnam.

Doug had no reservations about the decision, later saying it was strongly influenced by the principles of duty and mateship he had grown up with in the Surf Club.

He spent the next "10 months, 10 days and 10 hours" based in Nui Dat always thinking about the Surf Club he had vowed to return to. And within hours of his army discharge he did just that. "After I got out, which was a Friday, I packed my gear and went straight up to the Surf Club for the weekend," he said later.

Doug continued to enjoy his weekly visits to Mooloolaba as a dedicated member of the Beach Bums ocean swimming group until his passing in late May 2025.

