



## Crosses and poppies bloom in Remembrance mood

Thousands of miniature white crosses and 1000 poppies will form a Field of Remembrance on the lawns adjacent Government House, North Terrace in readiness for the annual Remembrance Day observation on November 11. The planting ceremonies have been led by schools and veteran groups, and will be ready for the launch of the RSL Poppy Appeal on Tuesday November 1 (10am).

Red poppies bloomed amid the devastation of the World War 1 battlefields in France and Belgium. They seemed to symbolise the bloodshed. That symbolism was enhanced by the publication, in December 1915, of the poem *In Flanders Fields*. Written by a Canadian medical officer, John McCrae, it has established the poppy ever since as the emblem of public remembrance.

The annual RSL Poppy Appeal helps current and former members of the Australian Defence Force, and their dependants, at times of need. The RSL has dedicated this year's appeal to remembering and supporting veterans of all ages. In line with that mood, the appeal is of particular importance to three RSL initiatives:

- Homes for Heroes – emergency housing for homeless veterans.
- RSL Active – supporting former members of the Armed Services in their transition from military to civilian life.
- Operation K9 – assistance dogs for veterans experiencing stress-related conditions.

The November 1 launch will be attended by representatives from these three programs including clients and program managers. They will be supported by RSL SA President, Tim Hanna AM, and chief executive, Julia Langrehr.

ASC are again the Poppy Appeal's official partner. The shipbuilding company employs a significant ex-service element on its staff because they display an "admirable work ethic" and were very pleased to continue their support. ASC accordingly is proud to be associated with the RSL, especially in easing the shift into the civilian workforce.

Support is forthcoming from a much younger section of the community too. Little Picassos, which offers specialised art classes for young children at three locations (Glenelg, Hyde Park, Woodcroft), is supplying hand-made poppies for the Field of Remembrance. Approximately 300 students have contributed 1000 poppies as a significant back drop to the wooden crosses.



**WHAT:** Field of Remembrance and Poppy Appeal Launch

**WHEN:** Tuesday November 1 from 10.00am

**WHERE:** North Terrace lawns, outside Government House

**AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA:**

- Peter and Brian (veterans) and clients of the Homes for Heroes program
- Brendan (veteran) and his assistance dog Watson
- Mel (spouse of current Iraq soldier) and other RSL Active participants
- RSL SA President Brigadier Tim Hanna AM
- RSL SA CEO Julia Langrehr and our program managers
- Secondary school students from St Peters Woodlands
- Primary school art students from Little Picassos

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