Remembrance Day Speech

Remembrance Day is a day where people get together to remember the people that sacrificed their life to let us have peace. We get together to also remember those people that have gone to war and survived. In World War One, the fields couldn’t grow food and there was nothing on it but when the war ended poppies started to grow so that is why we wear poppies as a symbol of Remembrance Day. A wreath of poppies is laid to honour those in the war so on the 11th day, of the 11th month, at 11 o’clock we pay our respects with a minute silence.

We are lucky to live in a safe environment with water, food, phones, a lot of trees and good quality houses to live in. We have hospitals, fire stations and police to keep us safe. We also have cars to drive to school. During the war you would not go to school because it would be unsafe. At night time you would have to turn all of your lights off and close all of the windows and curtains because otherwise enemies might find you and hurt you. In war you can’t follow your dreams, become famous or work in your town. You would see some of your friends hurt and life would be miserable.

We feel sorry for the people who died and were injured. We also feel sad for the parents of young men who didn’t come back from war. We feel grateful for what they did because we get to live in a country that has peace.

For many of us today it is about remembering great grandfathers and grandfathers who fought in World War 1 and 2. Remembrance Day means we can show our respect to those who fought and died or got seriously injured when they were fighting, to make the world a safer place to live in.

We don’t think war is very nice because people get scared and people die. If we had one wish, we would wish that war would stop because people deserve to live in a safe environment. If we could say something to one of the soldiers that died at war, we would say, “thank you very much for saving our country”.

St Matthew’s School Remembrance Day Poem

By Anton Hanson
Read by Abbie Smith and Ashton George

We will always remember them for their bravery
To charge up the hill knowing they had the lower ground
But still doing it for our lives.

As we left the shore a trumpet sounded
To begin our charge up the slope
Most did not make it as they got unforgivingly pounded
We lost so many we had no hope.

Many were young men on the shore of Gallipoli
Leaving behind the comforts of family and home
They will always be an important part of history
But the comradery of the ANZACs meant they were never alone.

Living in trenches was exhausting and hard
It was a constant struggle to stay alive
Those who survived were left scarred
I’m shocked anyone managed to live

So many innocent lives were lost
War takes so many lives away
But they were there to protect our country at any cost
And we remember them with each poppy bloom.
NARROGIN AG COLLEGE

Good morning,

Guests, veterans, ladies and gentlemen,

We are honoured to be here to share in this important day of reflection and remembrance. At 11:00am on the 11th of November 1918 a peace agreement was signed between Germany and the Allies, ending World War One.

Since then we have seen Australians again and again answer the call to arms for the love and defence of their country. ANZACs served again in the Second World War, in Korea, in Vietnam, in the Gulf war and in Afghanistan. It is a day to commemorate all the war dead.

Our school, Narrogin Agricultural College, was opened in 1902. We have had students who have been involved in every major conflict of the 20th century. For us, these brave men and women are a tremendous source of enduring pride.

On this day, we can’t help thinking that those who served must have been just like us when they were 15, or just a few years older. They were our age when they paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country in some faraway battle.

In 1942, Narrogin Agricultural College was used as a training facility to train young men for the war. Early in first term the boys played their part in local air raid precautions by digging their own slit trenches with picks and shovels in the hard clay of the orchard. C. W. Allen, one of the town’s ARP wardens, later praised them for helping fill and stack sandbags around the hospital’s operating theatre to protect it from possible bomb blasts.

After only a few weeks the boys were sent home. Almost without warning the General Officer Commanding, Western Command, announced he was acquiring the school buildings for a military recovering hospital. In 1942, Vic Doney, pointed out that agricultural instruction was provided only at Narrogin and Muresk, that the school was renowned Australia wide for its excellent tuition, control of students and cult of physical fitness.

On behalf of the Narrogin Agricultural College, we would like to thank Narrogin branch of the RSL for giving us this opportunity to be a part of this remembrance service.
Good morning everyone. My name is Tahlia Regan and I am representing East Narrogin Primary school.

The end of WW1 is commemorated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We observe a minute silence where we can reflect on the enormous sacrifices our ancestors made for our great land and the lifestyle we now enjoy today.

For many of us, who have not had the direct experience of war, Remembrance Day on the surface, may feel like any other day: walking the dog, playing with friends, going to school and enjoying the freedom of living in a lucky country. So, as I stand here and reflect on these things, I can clearly appreciate my blessed life in a safe town, in a safe nation. Why? Our ancestors fought for the freedom we enjoy today. Some of us have great grandparents who fought and died under the Australian flag. I cannot imagine what it would be like to send a father, uncle, grandparent or a brother to war knowing they may never come home. War is terrible and cruel. It destroys countries, families and individuals. As young Australians, we should never take our prosperity or our freedom for granted. We thank our forbears, the service men and women, for their sacrifices.

Let us remember them.
Just Imagine

Music played - “In Flanders Fields” – music – short burst fading out...

VOICE 1 Kate:
Imagine standing on a boat with your luggage beside you.

Two soldiers stand stage left with luggage at side looking out into the distance

VOICE 2 Mikaela:
Imagine saying goodbye to everyone you’ve ever known and loved.

Lights come on above 2 women who are waving and blowing kisses, lights come down on them

VOICE 3: Chloe:
Imagine waving at your loved ones as the boat left the shore

Soldiers raise their hand and wave

VOICE of MAN 4: Michael:
Imagine waving until you can’t see them anymore…….. (Father – Hat and walking stick)

Soldier walks away

Sounds of the war fade in quietly and out again

VOICE OF WOMAN 1 Kate:
WWI 1914 - 1918
60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

*The war sounds are louder and fade*

**Soldier Returns and stands**

**VOICE OF WOMAN 2 Michaela:**
WWII 1939 – 1945
27,073 killed and 23,477 wounded.

We are the Dead!
Short days ago ... We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

**VOICE OF WOMAN 3 Chloe:**
Korea – 1950 – 1953
340 killed and over 1,216 wounded. A further 29 had become prisoners of war.

Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields...

**VOICE OF MAN 4: Vietnam**
1962 – 1975
521 died as a result of the war and over 3,000 were wounded.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw the torch;
be yours to hold it high.

**VOICE OF WOMAN 5: Georgia**
Afghanistan – 2001 – present
41 Australian soldiers have been killed and 261 wounded, the majority since October 2007.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields.

**Soldier standing steps to the microphone and says**

“Lest We Forget”