



Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC  
Chief of Air Force

# CAF & WOFF-AF MESSAGE



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Warrant Officer of the Air Force

## ANZAC DAY 2020

To all on Anzac Day

Each year our nation comes together on the anniversary of the Gallipoli landings where young Australian and New Zealand men landed, fought, and died on the beaches and duffs.

As the years advanced, our country has used this day to reflect upon not only the brave men and women who have come before us, but also as a time to reflect on our current veterans.

For although many of us have had different experiences, we share many things in common.

Foremost of those is the absolute commitment to serving our country, and also the strong value that we place in always looking after our mates.

As the years and decades have passed, the countless brave and committed men and women who have joined the Anzac legend are included among those we remember on 25 April.

Of course, this year will be very different from any other. In the interests of protecting our community, we will mark this very special day without our friends and colleagues at our side.

This is a rare time in history that Anzac Day experiences such significant disruption – and for many people, it will be tough. However, this does not mean we cannot mark tomorrow in our own way.

Many of us will be taking part in the Stand At Dawn campaign which will see Australians stand at the edge of their driveways to mark the Dawn Service. We think this is a great initiative and encourage you to participate either in uniform or in civilian dress with your loved ones.

Changing a day which is so important to us and our loved ones speaks to the spirit of selflessness and service to our community that the Anzac spirit stands for.

Personally, as Chief of Air Force, I'll be commemorating the meaning of Anzac Day from my driveway with my wife Lou. I'll also dust off my bagpipes and have a crack at the Lament after the televised Australian War Memorial Service and then serve up our own 'gunfire breakfast'.

And as Warrant Officer of the Air Force, I'll be catching up with family and friends via video call. I'll also take some time to think about my late father who was a Vietnam veteran. While I wish I'd had the opportunity to march with him, Anzac Day provides me with a special time to remember Dad and recall fond memories of him.

This has not been an easy start to the year for our force. Our personnel are overseas, we stepped in to help assist with the bushfires and we are right now working with civilian authorities to help contain the COVID-19 outbreak – one of the largest threats to Australia and the world in a long time.

For this reason it is important that no matter how you choose to acknowledge this Saturday, you should be proud.

You stand among the past and present who have displayed great courage, discipline and self-sacrifice in choosing a life of service to their country.

We have worked and talked with so many talented and dedicated people within our Air Force and we know for a fact there are thousands more of you who we are yet to meet.

Thank you for everything you do for our Air Force and our country. We are honoured to lead such a remarkable and incredible Air Force that is dedicated to service and excellence.

Lest we forget.

**Mel**  
CAF

**Fee**  
WOFF-AF

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