

ANZAC Dawn Service: 25th of APRIL 2022



On the morning of Anzac Day 2022, many SIA students from the secondary schools of Nouméa and Dumbéa-sur-Mer came at 5.15 am at the Place Bir Hakeim in Nouméa to honour the Anzac soldiers with their teachers and school principals.

The Dawn Service started at 6am. Some students from Tuband College distributed the programme and poppies while everybody was waiting. When the ceremony began one soldier from each troupe saluted the officials as they passed in front of everyone and then saluted us.

First Felicity Roxburgh, the Consul-General of New Zealand, welcomed us and explained what Anzac Day is. Then another person from the Consul-General of New Zealand sang a song in Maori.



Fiddih and Lisa (4^{ème} SIA Tuband) were very honoured to read a poem written by Fiddih herself. Many officials laid wreaths, flowers and poppies. The Ode of Anzac was read in Maori by Christine Horril, Deputy General of New Zealand. Then the Consul-General of Australia, Steven Barraclough, read The Ode of Remembrance. After that we listened to the Last Post and respected a minute of silence. A woman sang the national anthems of

New Zealand (in Maori), Australia and France. Finally, the protocol rank saluted the veterans and the flag bearers. Benjamin Fuluhea (*Chargé de la Diplomatie Publique*) did the ceremony and thanked everyone.

The students were invited to put poppies next to the flowers. It was very moving.



We have some "gossip" for you (if you're interested!):

- We saw a soldier faint at the very beginning of the service and four other soldiers picked him up and put him in a van. We were a bit worried and hope he felt better soon after.
- The woman who sang made a mistake in the Australian anthem: she sang "young and free" instead of "one and free", but we noted the lyrics in the programme were correct. Did you know this single word was changed in January 2021? It was done to honour the country's Indigenous history. We'll excuse her this time because she was probably stressed to sing in front of so many people.
- Fiddih was interviewed by NC 1ère!
- We spotted Commander Pete Hudson who had visited us the week before!



Our advice: it rained a lot so next year remember to bring an UMBRELLA!

