ANZAC Day Protocols and Traditions

Dress

ANZAC Day parades and services are commemorative activities and participants should wear neat civilian attire as a mark of respect.

Wearing of Medals

Recipients wear their medals on the left breast, while relatives may wear their forebears' medals on their right breast. Ladies and children may wear miniatures instead of medals.

Note: Under the Defence Act 1903, it is an offence to improperly use Service decorations and to impersonate Service personnel. The penalties for these offences include a fine of up to $3 300, six months imprisonment, or both.

Saluting

Gentlemen wearing civilian headdress are reminded that hats should be removed for activities such as the playing of national anthems and the arrival and departure of the Governor.

The Salute by Veterans. "It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph [that] Veterans will place their Right Hand over their "Left Side" many believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their Heart" in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades"

This is not so. The Veterans Salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

Tasmanian
Government