RSL readies for Anzac centenary

PREPARATIONS are progressing well for the biggest Anzac Day to be held in Alice Springs as Australia gears up for the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign.

On April 25, 1915 Australian troops began landing on the beaches of Gallipoli with the aim of taking the cliffs lining them.

Since then the Anzac legend has been developed, expanded, embellished and confirmed on many battlefields. It remains central to the Australian psyche.

RSL Alice Springs branch president Martin Glass said everyone was on board for the local commemorations.

“I have had meetings with the town council and appreciate the considerations and co-operation I have received,” he said.

“We are planning to stick as close as possible to the traditional Dawn Service.

“There might be a slight variation to the march. We will go along the Mall, turn right and go along the path beside Anzac Oval to the RSL instead of turning left and blocking the highway.”

This will enable veterans who need a ride to the cenotaph on top of Anzac Hill to stop at the RSL and get in a vehicle.

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Mr Glass said it was going to be important to maximise the use of space at the top of Anzac Hill, for both the Dawn Service and the one at 10.30am.

He said there would only be the three traditional wreaths laid at the Dawn Service and people who wanted to lay wreaths at 10.30am would have to register with the RSL beforehand.

There will be a live link of the service at the Cenotaph to a screen in the lower car park at the top of Anzac Hill.

Mr Glass said work on the Anzac Centenary project was progressing with 20 WWI veterans who either came from Central Australia or settled here after the war being included.

“It is important to maximise the use of space that we have available.”

Mr Glass said he had been in regular contact with Raymond Finn and his plans of having an indigenous troupe of Lighthorse involved in the Anzac Day parade was progressing.

“There has been a lot of interest in this from veterans and the local council. It will provide a great opportunity for the indigenous people to show their support for the Anzac legend.”

Mr Glass said that he had worked for someone else 10 years ago.

“My greatest passion has been animals. I have been in the industry all my life,” Ms Pollitt said.

“Before embarking on this labour of love, she spoke to other groomers in Alice Springs and was pleasantly surprised by the support – even to be told to go ahead and, as one groomer said, "the more groomers the better".”

She said there was more than enough pets for all the groomers.

Ms Pollitt said it was important for most pets to be groomed, especially in summer as some breeds required shorter hair to survive the heat.

All owners could do the grooming, and it was different for all breeds of dogs, but she said it was not always easy without the correct equipment.

All grooms include nail clipping, a bath and a coat is well maintained.

She said there was more than enough pets she could groom, and people contacting her through her Facebook.

“Most dogs do not like baths but they are like children and behave differently in the grooming room than they do in their home.”

Ms Pollitt’s rate depends on the size of the animal and what is required, such as a standard drop them off on their way to work in the morning and collect them on their way home.

Ms Pollitt’s rate depends on the size of the animal and what is required, such as a standard or full groom, a clip or not.

“A couple of interesting jobs I have had was a guy with a border collie who asked to give it a mohawk and a cat which had a lion cut.”

“All grooms include nail clipping, a bath and drying and can have a hair clip or not.”

“Most dogs do not like baths but they are like children and behave differently in the grooming room than they do in their home.”

Ms Pollitt only does a certain number of procedures a day to ensure every animal that is brought to her has complete care.

She said that she could not do it all on her own and was always working in a team.

“People are very happy to see their pets being groomed and it is a lot of hard work, but it is worth it.”

“I can’t tell you how many clients for the support they have given me,” she said.