Last week the children of Bedourie State School were kept very busy participating in Anzac related community events.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr Keith Payne - the only surviving Victoria Cross recipient from the Vietnam war - came to the school to speak with them. He spent an hour with the children, and during this time they were able to ask him questions about his time in the Defence Force. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this time, and it gave them a deeper understanding of some of the difficulties faced by the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our country. Thank you Mr Payne for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon!

On Wednesday, 24 April, the school attended the dedication of the new Soldier Memorial in Anzac Park, where two students laid a wreath.

On Thursday morning, the whole school participated in the Anzac Day march followed by the Service at Anzac Park, where students were involved in laying wreaths and also with a reading.

The following pages are thoughts from the students about this important part of our history.
Anzac Day

On Anzac Day we march to remember the soldiers. Some people are holding Australian flags and waving them. The soldiers died in the war to keep us safe.

By Sascha Young (Prep)

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is the day we remember the soldiers who fight in the wars to save our country. Anzac Day is the day we march to the Memorial Stone.

By Sophie Farran (Year 3)

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is all about remembering the soldiers who died for us in war. They went to war and put their lives at risk. They were very brave. The soldiers who died for us must be thanked. That’s why we hold Anzac Day. It’s held so we can remember the soldiers who died for us in the war. On Anzac Day, we march around the block to Anzac Park. There we lay wreaths and have one minute’s silence. Sometimes I cry because it is so sad.

By Alice Jansen (Year 4)
Anzac Day

When it is Anzac Day everyone thinks about the soldiers fighting in the war to keep our country safe. The eternal flame never goes out. If the eternal flame goes out, we won’t remember the soldiers. People hold Australian flags because when the soldiers were in war some died.

*By Saphea James (Year 2)*

Anzac Day

We put poppies on the statue.

*By Ben Farran (Year 1)*

Anzac Day

On Anzac Day we pray for the soldiers who went to war to fight for us to keep us safe. We put a wreath on the Memorial to thank the soldiers who died for us.

*By Charlea Smith (Year 2)*

What Anzac means to me

Anzac Day is a day to remember the fallen and present. Everyone gathers at Gallipoli or their local Anzac Park. We gather there to pay respect to the fallen diggers.

We have a minute’s silence to remember those who fought for us. They put their lives on the line for us. They did this so we could have a peaceful life with no war.

So if you think marching or going is hard, imagine what these soldiers went through. So show some respect for these brave soldiers and go.

*By Stacy Krause (Year 7)*
Anzac Day to me

Anzac Day to me is a good day to remember the soldiers. To me it’s not about the day where you get the day off school, it’s about sadness because the soldiers died for us.

The soldiers were in the war to keep us safe so we have a free country. I love how we have a minute of silence to remember the soldiers. Anzac Day is a day that we mark for the soldiers.

To me, Anzac Day is the saddest day of the whole year because the soldiers were brave enough to die for us. The soldiers freed us; so to me, Anzac Day is my favourite day.

By Breanna Farran (Year 6)

Anzac Day

On Anzac Day we march down to the park to remember the soldiers who got killed.

By Cherokee Crombie (Year 3)

Anzac Day

We pray for the soldiers. We put the poppies on the statue.

By Cassidy Bell (Year 1)
What Anzac means to me

Anzac means more to me than just another day off school. It is a day to remember all of those brave and courageous soldiers who died for us, because they died keeping me and everyone else and the country safe and free.

Anzac Day is a celebration to thank and remember the soldiers who died. Even though it is very sad, we must treasure that and celebrate it every year.

I really love Anzac Day because the soldiers who died mean a lot to me and a lot of other people. Anzac Day is a happy, remembering day because Anzac Day means very much to me.

By Kaitlin Farran (Year 6)

What Anzac Day is to me

Anzac Day for me means a lot. It makes me remember the brave soldiers who went to Gallipoli and risked their lives for us. This special day is not just another day off school, it is for the Anzac soldiers.

Thinking of the soldiers who went to Gallipoli makes me sad because they could have had a family that they had left. Anzac Day is for those people, and to think of them as our heroes.

On Anzac Day, we mark and lay down wreaths to remember the soldiers. The Anzac soldiers make me sad and happy, because they risked their lives; and also because I can always remember them as they were.

By Dakota Crombie (Year 6)