

ANZAC DAY CHRISTMAS ISLAND 2011

"Peace at home, peace in the world" - Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

It was a very inclusive, significant experience to attend the Dawn Service in the grounds of Tai Jin House to commemorate ANZAC Day.

As the sky lightened, Frigates and Bosuns soared in silhouette against the pale blue-grey sky; picture perfect with a background of tall palms and the half-mast flags of Australia, New Zealand and Christmas Island, rippling in the soft breeze.

Don O'Donnell's 2011 Requiem and other addresses by Administrator, Brian Lacy, New Zealand perspective by Ray Wiley and ADF perspective by LCDC Anthony Allen, were moving and evoked memories of families, friends and loved ones of our forces serving in extreme conditions from 1914 to the present day.

We were privileged to hear the musical recital by the band and singer, Ray Schoen in a rendition of Eric Bogle's 1971 "And the band played Waltzing Matilda".

All community groups were represented at the wreath laying, followed by the Ode of Remembrance read by Dave Robertson. The Bugle call of the Last Post and Reveille and the minutes silence as always, so moving, was punctuated in true CI style by the cackling and crowing of feral chooks.

As we remembered, many with their heads bowed, the faint aroma of sausages, egg and onions wafted in a light smoky veil over the large crowd. This was a morning to remember and admire the medals worn giving thoughtfulness as to whom they represented. We should give thanks to the organisers, the men and women - pride of the Launceston, other uniformed services, the ordinary public and the work of the CI volunteers always behind the scenes.

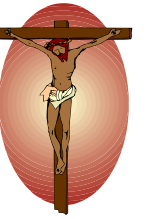
Let love and caring for our fellow man endure forever. Lest we forget.

Contributed by Diana Buchanan



Raising of the flags by members of the Police personnel on ANZAC Day. 25 April 2011.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS



Easter is the commemoration of Jesus resurrection celebrated by Catholics around the world. Here, on Christmas Island we were fortunate to have Fr Claude Mostowik celebrate the Holy Week (18 April – 25 April 2009) with us.

Mass Services were held in the evenings at the Catholic Church during Holy Week. On Holy Saturday, the Church was cleaned and beautifully decorated with yellow and white chrysanthemums in preparation for the Easter celebrations.



Easter Vigil service started at 8pm with about 30 people attending the service. The church was in darkness prior to Mass and was later illuminated with light taken from the Paschal candle after it was blessed by Fr Claude. The church looked really surreal and beautiful with the lit candles held by the congregation. On this night, Tamara was initiated into the catholic faith by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Sarah, Rubie, Brandon & Lachlan were also welcomed to the church through the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism. After the Easter Vigil service the congregation stayed behind to enjoy some light refreshments.



Easter Sunday Service saw the entire church overflowing to its capacity. Today Catholics round the world celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mass here on Christmas Island began at 9:00am and ended around 9:45am. The church musicians and the Vietnamese sang beautiful joyous hymns and everyone enjoyed the songs which were accompanied by the ringing of bells. Today, 6 children – Maia, Sarah, Brandon, Rubie, Isabella and Lachlan celebrated the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time. They looked beautiful in their white garments. We rejoice with them and share their joy as they draw closer to god through the celebration of the Easter sacraments. Congratulations to Tamara and the children for receiving the sacraments and becoming full members of the Catholic Church.

Almost everyone stayed behind after the service to enjoy some refreshments kindly sponsored by the Shire of Christmas Island and to catch up with each other. Thanks also to Long's Bakery for their delicious hot cross buns.

Easter eggs, some donated by Boong Trading were handed out to everyone who attended the service.

The Catholic Church Committee would like to thank the Shire of Christmas Island, Boong Trading and Long's Bakery for their kind assistance in helping us to celebrate Easter.

