

BLUE BERET



Dawn ceremony marks ANZAC Day as Australian Police prepare to depart Cyprus

This year's traditional ANZAC Day dawn service was a particularly poignant one for the Australian Federal Police and UNFICYP, as the current – and 111th – contingent, will be the last deployed to Cyprus following a proud, 53-year history on the island.

A senior Australian delegation, including Justice Minister Michael Keenan and Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan, visited Australian UNPOL members in Cyprus as part of a scheduled visit to honour fallen soldiers on ANZAC Day.

At the dawn service, held in Wayne's Keep in the buffer zone, Mr. Keenan and Deputy Commissioner Phelan joined guests from all components of UNFICYP and the diplomatic community to remember and honour the sacrifice of the first ANZACs and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace.

As part of the service, family members of the Australian contingent laid wreaths at gravesites of deceased Australians

and New Zealanders from WWII, while the Minister, Deputy Commissioner and invited Ambassadors also laid wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice. During his address, Australian Police Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter reminded guests of the sacrifice of the ANZACs and the ongoing need to strive for peace.

"On this day, mindful of the awful costs of war, we renew our commitment to make peace and to keep peace. It is fitting that we do so here in Cyprus, where the troops and police of many countries have come to build and maintain peace and security," she said.

A gunfire breakfast was then hosted by the Australian Contingent at the International Mess, located in the UN Protected Area.

UNPOL and UNFICYP's military contingent provided support to the Australian Contingent in the planning and delivery of the event. The success of the Service was greatly due to the assistance and enthusiasm provided by the entire UNFICYP family.



Australian Police Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter and UNFICYP Chief-of-Staff Colonel Tim Wildish at the Dawn Service



Australia's final 111th contingent to UNFICYP: Reinder De Vries, Contingent Commander Bronwyn Carter, Paul King

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