

A GUIDE TO THE ARMISTICE CENTENARY



On Sunday 11 November 2018, Aotearoa New Zealand will mark the centenary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. Join us this Armistice Day as we remember the moment 100 years ago when war gave way to peace.

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WHY DOES NEW ZEALAND COMMEMORATE **ARMISTICE DAY**?

Armistice Day is commemorated on 11 November, the date the First World War came to an end with the signing of an armistice, or truce, between the Allied Forces and Germany in 1918. At 11.00am on that day, the guns fell silent after four years of brutal conflict.

Although New Zealand was in the midst of the influenza pandemic, when news of the Armistice reached our shores it was met with thanksgiving and joyous noise. “There were songs and cheers, miscellaneous pipings and blastings, and tootings and rattlings—a roaring chorus of gladsome sounds.” (*Evening Post*, Wellington, 12 November 1918).

More than 100,000 New Zealanders—or approximately ten percent of the population at the time—served during the war, and over 18,000 lost their lives. Families and communities back home felt these losses acutely.

Armistice Day was first commemorated across the Commonwealth on 11 November 1919, when King George V called for people to observe a two-minute silence to remember the fallen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE **ARMISTICE CENTENARY**?

The Armistice centenary gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the loss and trauma of the First World War, as well as reflect on peace and hope at the centenary of its closure. As well as joining together in remembrance, we can recapture the relief and jubilation of that important day a century ago.

The centenary will be marked in events and activities across the country. Below are some tips on how you can be a part of this historic moment.



Peace celebrations in Ōpunake, 1918.

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HOW CAN YOU BE **INVOLVED**?

Attend an Armistice centenary event by finding one near you at ww100.govt.nz/armistice

Watch the live-stream of the Armistice Centenary National Ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington. See [facebook.com/ww100NZ](https://www.facebook.com/ww100NZ) for details, or come along.

Send a message to the Armistice Beacon at ww100.govt.nz/armistice-beacon and your words of peace, hope or remembrance will be digitally displayed at Pukeahu on Armistice Day.

Observe a two-minute silence at **11.00am on Sunday 11 November**, and listen for the Roaring Chorus of celebratory noise-making after.

Learn more about Armistice Day at ww100.govt.nz