

Armistice Day event

By Mick Jensen - 7th November, 2018 - Ashburton RSA is organising a poignant commemoration on Sunday to mark 100 years since the signing of the armistice to end fighting in World War 1.

Formalities will be held at the Cenotaph, Baring Square West and will include gunfire, church bells, wreath laying and speeches.

The public is asked to assemble at 10.45am.
Machine gun fire will follow 10 minutes later, before the chiming of the clock at 11am.

There will be a brief period of silence, before church bells strike up from two nearby churches for a period of two minutes. The Ashburton Pipe Band will then play a victory themed song, ahead of a wreath laying ceremony. Formal speeches from Ashburton mayor Donna Favel and Ashburton RSA president Merv Brenton will follow.

The Last Post will then ring out, followed by the lowering of flags and the reading of the Ode of Remembrance. A reveille, flag raising and short prayer from Salvation Army Captain John Stone will end the commemoration, before the formal dismissal of those gathered.

Ashburton RSA president Merv Brenton said a number of war themed displays would be set up near the cenotaph, including an old harvester mill, army period vehicles and war display from Ashburton Museum.

"We are inviting the public to come along on Sunday to show their support for those who sacrificed their lives 100 years ago.
"The guns ceased firing on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1918, but for some it was not the end of sorrow and suffering," he said.

Merv Brenton.