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Diamantina Shire Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Record crowds attend ANZAC Day services in the Diamantina

Record crowds gathered to pay tribute to Australia's service men and women at ANZAC Day services on Thursday, April 25 in the Diamantina Shire. The Diamantina Shire Council estimates that more than 90 percent of the resident population attended services in the Shire's main centres of Birdsville and Bedourie.

In Birdsville around 90 people attended the Dawn Service, while 130 came out for the Commemoration Ceremony March at 10.30am. Both services were presided over by Victoria Cross recipient, Mr Keith Payne VC OAM, who received his medal in 1969 for bravery during the Vietnam War.

Meanwhile, 200km to the north in Bedourie in the best attendance to date, more than 70 residents woke up early for the Dawn Service, while 90 people gathered to watch local horsemen and women lead the March at 10am.

Diamantina Shire Chief Executive Officer Mr Scott Mason said that for a region renowned for its vast size and contrastingly small population the record attendances were a testament to the true spirit of the Shire's residents.

"Birdsville and Bedourie are both very patriotic communities and it is humbling to see the involvement of everyone in the four services in the Diamantina Shire. We have been overwhelmed with support from cattle stations taking the time to bring horses significant distances to participate in the annual March."

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