

# Sacred Moment



**AUSSIE PRIDE:** The Esplanade in Fremantle was lined with flags as those who fought and their families

"He never missed a march," she said of Sir Albert, who died in 2006. "It meant a lot to him and this is my way of honouring him."

Many children who attended the service proudly wore their ancestors' medals.

Sophie Wilson, 11, had four members of her family fight in various wars, including her great-grandfather, who was killed in action in 1917.

Sophie wore her great-uncle's hat and her great-grandfather's medals.

Royal United Services Institute secretary Otto Pelczar said: "I guess I'm the lucky one at 75 and still going strong."

"My father, if he were still with us, would be thinking about all the mates he lost."

Later in the morning, more than 150 groups took part in the Anzac Day march in Perth.

The streets were lined with thousands of appreciative patriots who cheered and waved small Australian flags as the war heroes marched and rode in

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vehicles through the city. The loudest cheers were reserved for SAS Trooper and Victoria Cross recipient Mark Donaldson, who elected to march in WA instead of his home state of NSW.

Trooper Donaldson led his fellow SAS members in the parade, but appeared overwhelmed by all of the new-found attention.

For the first time, this year's parade featured the Partners of Veterans Association, a volun-

teer group supporting WA women who have experienced firsthand the traumatic effects of war on their partners.

At Anzac House in the city, patrons made the most of the opportunity to play games of two-up.

In Fremantle, an estimated 5000 people attended the annual Anzac Day parade, with many also attending the dawn service at Monument Hill earlier in the morning.

Fremantle RSL president James Paton said he was thrilled with the level of support for the day.

"It's just terrific to see so many people turn out and pay tribute on this wonderful national day," he said.

Other well-attended services took place in Stirling, Joondalup, Wanneroo, Cockburn, Mandurah and Mandurah.

Thousands also flocked to memorials in regional WA, including major services at Mt Clarence in Albany, Birdwood House in Geraldton and Anzac Park in Bunbury.