

23 April 2019

Rare book that started Anzac Day tradition recognised by UNESCO world register

A century-old book that established Anzac Day as an event of national remembrance has been added to the prestigious UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

The minute book, held by State Library of Queensland, details the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee's first meeting where it was agreed that Anzac Day would take place on 25 April 1916.

The day was recognised with a parade through Brisbane city streets followed by a service at the Exhibition Hall, with similar observances in towns throughout Queensland.

The book, recognised for its national significance, takes its place alongside 57 other historic documents such as the Mabo Case manuscripts, the first Australian narrative film *The Story of the Kelly Gang* (1906), and the final draft of Dorothea Mackellar's iconic *Core of my Heart* (later *My Country*) poem.

The minute book gives unique insight into the forces and differing community perspectives that shaped Anzac Day in the earliest years of its enactment.

An image from the first parade in 1916 is also part of the State Library collection.

Other State Library items on the Australian Memory of the World register:

- [Margaret Lawrie Torres Strait Island Collection](#) (added in 2008): stories from the Torres Strait Islands, genealogical information on many Torres Strait Island families, slides and photographs, artworks, and research material
- [Manifesto of the Queensland Labour Party, 1892](#) (added in 2008) (also inscribed on the International Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World): a handwritten foundation document of the Queensland Labour Party
- [The Convict Records of Queensland 1825–1842](#) (added in 2009): records that document the penal settlement at Moreton Bay
- [James Tyson Papers](#) (added in 2017): surviving records the creator of one of Australia's greatest pastoral empires.

Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch:

"The book held by the State Library tells a story about the shaping of the national Anzac ceremony to recognise the many men and women from Australia and New Zealand who served during wartime."

"It is an honour for the minute book to take its place within the prestigious UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) register."

"This worthy addition to the register will inspire Australians to access the State Library's collections to learn more about Queensland's history."

Media enquiries

Marketing & Communications
communications@slq.qld.gov.au | 07 3842 9847

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:

“State Library is honoured to have these precious minutes placed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.”

“As custodian of Queensland’s collective memory and we are uniquely positioned to share the incredible stories of our state’s past and present.”

“State Library holds a wealth of First World War material, but this minute book is one of a kind.”

“The Anzac Day Commemoration Committee was the only organisation nationally committed to developing and promoting a template for Anzac Day observance.”

“Aside from its national significance, the minute book is a rich resource for researchers, historians and hobbyists.”

“A digitised version is [available online](#) through State Library’s catalogue for anyone to view and enjoy.”