



## POPPIES FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWI

As many of you will be aware there has been an ongoing community project to create thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies for various Commemorations around the world.

This began in Melbourne with two women, Lyn Berry & Margaret Knight, wanting to honour their fathers who both fought in WWII and is called “5000 Poppies – A Community Tribute of Respect and Remembrance”. You can find more details at their website:

<https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/>

In the lead up to ANZAC Day they appeared on Gardening Australia last week and the link is: <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/lest-we-forget/9676660>

In a very small way I have been part of this group and, as no more poppies are needed for their current projects, I was keen to continue and to include our school community in a commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWI on Remembrance Day this year.

So, you are all invited to knit or crochet poppies which will be used to create a display (wreath, sign, bunting ,etc.) which we can then use annually for future ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies at school.

If you're keen, the poppies should be made using 3.75 knitting needles or a 3.5mm crochet hook with 8ply red and black yarn. The poppies should hold their shape and 6-8cm wide is a good size. If you find that your poppy is too loose and floppy, try going down a size in your crochet hook or knitting needles. Please tie in all the yarn ends. The poppy centres look amazing when embellished with buttons, beads, French knots or old ANZAC badges, etc., but don't have to be.

Here are some patterns from the 5000 Poppies Project. I have found the bottom one to be very quick and easy but you are welcome to use your own designs too.

<https://5000poppies.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/poppies-patterns-update-september-2017.pdf>

Hopefully this project will include our whole school community, with contributions from your children and extended family as well as staff too. There will be a red tub in the office for your finished poppies. I'll pop some pattern sheets in there too!

We will see how we go but let's make a deadline of the end of Term 3, then depending on numbers, we will decide how best to use them. I'll keep you all updated with a monthly tally.

Many thanks, Chris Donaldson