Concord commemorates Victory in the Pacific

The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, will join ex-servicemen and women, their families and friends and members of the Armed Forces at Concord Repatriation General Hospital (CRGH) from 2pm, Wednesday, 15 August; to commemorate Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day.

The annual service will be held in the tranquil parklands at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, adjacent to the Hospital.

Almost one million Australian men and women served in WWII, and around 39,000 sacrificed their lives, including one-third of Australian prisoners-of-war who died in captivity.

VP Day, also referred to as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, is celebrated on 15 August. The date commemorates Japan’s acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender 14 August 1945.

For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

This year, CRGH’s service will also be highlighting the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Students from St Patricks College will accompany seven high-profile ex-servicemen and women in releasing 70 doves to mark the occasion.

Other highlights will include the screening of footage from the National Film and Sound Archive taken by Damien Parer on the Pacific War.

CRGH was commissioned in 1941 as a military hospital for the Australian Army. When completed in 1942, the 2000-bed military hospital was the largest hospital in the southern hemisphere.

After WWII, the Hospital became a repatriation hospital for returned servicemen under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government, with a change in name to Repatriation General Hospital, Concord (RGHC). In 1963, RGHC became a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney.

The Hospital, recognising the growing community need, began providing care for general community patients in the early 1970’s. An emergency and accident centre opened in 1976.

The Hospital has been commemorating VP Day since 1998.