

OFFICIAL



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

MEDIA RELEASE

Labuan Remembrance Day Ceremony Marks 80th Anniversary of Brunei's Liberation in WWII

9 November 2025

9th November 2025, Labuan – Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Michael Hoy, and acting British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ken O’Flaherty, attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Labuan Memorial on 8 November 2025.

The High Commissioners’ attendance honoured the memory of Australian, British, and Allied soldiers whose courage and sacrifice contributed to the liberation of Brunei in 1945. The visit also honoured the resilience of Bruneian civilians who endured hardship during the war. The large majority of the 127 Australians who died in the liberation of Brunei and Labuan are buried at Labuan Memorial.

The High Commissioners were accompanied by British Defence Adviser to Brunei, Captain Jonathan Caple, Australian Defence Adviser to Brunei Darussalam, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Sanderson, and Australian Defence Adviser to Malaysia, Colonel Corey Shillabeer.

High Commissioner Hoy said: “The 80th anniversary year is a poignant reminder of the deep historical ties shared with Australia, the United Kingdom and Allies, forged in times of conflict and strengthened through decades of peace and cooperation. It reflects a shared commitment to remembering the past while building a future grounded in mutual respect, reconciliation and the principles of international law.”

High Commissioner O’Flaherty said: “The joint presence of both High Commissioners underscored the lasting friendship between Brunei and its Commonwealth partners. It is a testament to our collective dedication to peace and the role of diplomacy in preventing future conflict and fostering understanding across nations. As we honour those who have sacrificed, we remember their courage and the enduring legacy of their service.”

Images:

SOURCE: BES Labuan

Labuan Remembrance Day 1 – Guest during the Remembrance Day ceremony

Labuan Remembrance Day 2 – Remembrance Day ceremony

Labuan Remembrance Day 3 – Remembrance Day ceremony

OFFICIAL

Labuan Remembrance Day 4 – (From L to R) Lieutenant Colonel Paul Sanderson, Australian Defence Adviser to Brunei; His Excellency Michael Hoy Australian High Commissioner to Brunei; His Excellency Ken O’Flaherty, Acting British High Commissioner to Brunei; Captain Johnathan Caple, British Defence Adviser to Brunei.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Amanina Shofry, Public Diplomacy & Political Engagement Officer

2229435 (Ext 219) / 8905753

amanina.shofry@dfat.gov.au