

Australian farmers create poppy-shaped maze as war tribute

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By Jonathan Pearlman

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The maze was cut into Anna and Rowan Clarks farm in the town of Hagley in the island state of Tasmania. Credit: Photo: MARTIN EADIE PHOTOGRAPHY

A farming couple in Australia have created a poppy-shaped maze in their sorghum crop as a tribute to First World War veterans.

Anna and Rowan Clark said the design was intended to pay homage to the centenary of the war and the involvement of the ANZACS, the Australian and New Zealand troops.

The maze was cut into their farm in the town of Hagley in the island state of Tasmania.

"It's probably more to reflect all of the people who fought in the First World War," Mr Clark told ABC News. "We grow poppies on our farm. It's our main crop so we thought it was a good fit."

The maze, which will grow eight feet high, was created using GPS technology and a ride-on lawnmower.

Last year, the couple created a maze in the shape of a Tasmanian tiger, which has been extinct for more than 80 years. The maze was designed with the assistance of British experts and attracted 2,000 visitors.

"Hopefully at the opening, it will probably be about four, five feet high, and then it'll get even bigger after that," Mr Clark said. "I think at the end of last year, our crop maze was about seven or eight feet high."

The poppy maze will be open to visitors for four weeks from February 21.

"The custom-designed 2015 Poppy Crop Maze will entertain and challenge all those who enter its hidden corridors and pathways," the couple said on their Rupertswood Farm website.

The poppy was one of the only plants to grow on the bare fields of northern France at the end of the First World War and has become a symbol of remembrance.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/australia/11379939/Australian-farmers-create-poppy-maze-as-World-War-I-tribute.html>