Essay Question: Why do you think that Remembrance Day seems to have become increasingly important to our Australian community?

The First World War began in 1914. It was the biggest war the modern world had seen. The German’s and Allies were mainly fighting over land, resources and food. There were as many as 2 million Germans killed and as many as 5 million Allies killed and the total without civilians and the wounded was 7.8 million and that’s just too much for any war it’s just a catastrophic number. The First World War ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. In this essay I will explain how my family is connected to both of the world wars. I will also explain why I think Remembrance Day is so important and why it is continuing to become more important.

My great grandfather was in the first and second world wars. Joseph Robert Silk joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on the 21st of January 1916. He was 20 years old. He joined the 19th Infantry Battalion of the 2nd Australian Division. He fought at the Battle of Bullecourt, the Third Battle of Ypres and along the Somme River near Morlancourt. He was injured three times; the first time was in his first battle and he was wounded by a bullet or shrapnel, the second time he was gassed and the third time was when a German aeroplane attacked. He was also promoted twice; firstly to Lance Corporal in June 1917 and then to Corporal in September 1917. I think he was very brave and I am very proud of my great grandfather.

On the 11th of November Armistice Day is remembered because of the armistice signed between the Allies and German alliance. In Australia the name of the day was changed to Remembrance Day in 1997.

Remembrance Day has become even more important over the last 20 to 30 years because over time people have started thinking more about the good service and not about the tragedy of all the people who died. My great grandfather never talked about the things he did in the war. I think this is because it was so horrible and terrifying that he just didn’t want to talk about it.
I think that Remembrance Day is important because of the service and sacrifice that has been given and it is important to thank the soldiers publicly. I think that a Remembrance Day March and public holiday would help bring more people to it.

In conclusion, I wish that World War One had never happened but it did and many people, including Joseph Robert Silk, gave service and I am glad that the Allies won. Remembrance Day should be remembered forever because of the service and sacrifices of Joseph Robert Silk and so many more.