The real failure in any military is to believe your own myths and legends.

MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) JIM MOLAN.

INTRODUCTION

_Lest We Forget What?_ is a one hour documentary that unpacks many of the myths and realities of what happened to Australians during World War I and examines the dominance that Gallipoli has in popular memory, the place that is so central to the Australian legend as the time and place where Australia is said to have come of age and our sense of what being an Australian means was created.

What is it we know? What are we remembering – mythology, verifiable history or a bit of both? Anzac Day is increasingly used to define our nation’s very essence – is it all about remembering a sepia-tinted pastiche of vague anecdotes about the ANZAC spirit and derring-do or are we telling real stories about the ANZACs themselves? What about our actual role in World War I, based on fact and evidence?

Interrogating the ANZAC story is always going to be difficult because it occupies such a central place in the Australian national narrative. Why is it important to learn what really happened at Gallipoli in 1915 and on the Western Front in 1916, 17 and 18 during wartime? It is important for us, one hundred years on, to distinguish between fact and fiction? Why is it important to revisit the Gallipoli campaign and the legends and myths that have grown around it and to explore questions about what has been forgotten and why. It is also important, given the significant investment Australians have committed to the centenary both financially and emotionally that we are able to identify the historical truths about what actually occurred. As the soldiers who fought there and returned home have all died and with the records telling a range of different stories, surely it is critical to all those soldiers and nurses and their families who fought in wars over the past 100 years to try to understand what we are remembering and why, when we say those words – _Lest we forget_.

The phrase ‘Lest we forget’ comes from _Recessional_, a poem by British poet Rudyard Kipling, which he composed for the occasion of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It was a phrase that became particularly poignant as Kipling’s own son, who he enthusiastically encouraged to enlist, was killed at Loos in 1915. The term ‘Lest’ carries an implicit caution and a warning about the dangers of forgetting. This warning is echoed in the 1919 poem _Aftermath_ by the WWI soldier and poet Siegfried Sassoon, which is read at the end of the documentary with the repetition of the line ‘Have you forgotten yet’?

This documentary asks questions about what and why we as Australians remember and why and what we have forgotten about the First World War. It is a journey that will change what we all think.
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Lest We Forget What? would be suitable for middle and senior secondary students studying Australian History and Australian Culture and Society.

The National History Curriculum at Year 9 includes a Depth Study that focuses on World War 1 and how Australian society was changed through that experience. This study incorporates several of the issues raised in the documentary:

A) The commemoration of World War I, including debates about the nature and significance of the Anzac legend. Investigating the ideals associated with the Anzac tradition and how and why World War 1 is commemorated within Australian society.
• Remembrance
• War Memorials

B) The places where Australians fought and the nature of warfare during World War I, including the Gallipoli campaign and the Western Front.
• Identify the places where Australians fought.
• Use sources to identify the fighting at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, the difficulties of trench warfare, use of tanks etc.
• Military campaigns

C) The impact of World War I, with a particular emphasis on Australia (such as the use of propaganda to influence the civilian population, the changing role of women, the conscription debate)

ABC EDUCATION ‘LEST WE FORGET WHAT?’ LEARNING SHORTS

In addition to the one-hour documentary Lest We Forget What? Pony Films has created three educational learning shorts for ABC Education that are tailor-made for the Year 9 curriculum.

Each of the ‘Lest We Forget What? ABC Education Learning Shorts is hosted by Kate Aubusson on location in Australia, Gallipoli and the Western Front.

They investigate each of the curriculum topics in depth and pose a series of questions for students to pursue.

Please note, the one-hour documentary depicts some drinking and smoking and a single profanity and discusses issues of violence and sexually transmitted disease. The ABC learning shorts do not include this material and are G rated.

The titles of the ABC Education ‘Lest We Forget What?’ Learning Shorts are:

1. The Commemoration Of World War One And The Anzac Legend.
   Broadcast, Wednesday 29th April at 11.10am - ABC3.

2. The Gallipoli Campaign.
   Broadcast, Wednesday 6th May at 11:00am - ABC3

3. Australians On The Western Front.
   Broadcast, Wednesday 13th May at 11.00am - ABC3

ABC education TV website
http://www.abc.net.au/tveducation/

For further information about the series:
http://www.abc.net.au/tveducation/series/LESTWEFORGETWHAT.htm

The wider ABC ANZAC website:
http://www.abc.net.au/anzac

Specific programming information here:
The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I.

The campaign began with a failed naval attack by British and French ships on the Dardanelles Straits in February – March 1915 and continued with a major land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25th, involving British and French troops as well as divisions of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

The rugged terrain, the failure to control the high ground and a fierce Turkish resistance all meant the invaders were unable to advance inland. For most of the campaign the two opposing forces faced each other in trenches, with occasional bloody attacks and counter-attacks. Poor sanitation, poor food, heat, lice and flies in summer, storms, rain and snow in winter, all helped create a situation where casualties continued without any progress being made. Strict censorship and self-interest by the general meant that a true picture of the disastrous and failing campaign was not being passed on to the military planners in London, or to the general public. Finally, the forces were evacuated secretly in December 1915 and January of 1916.

AUSTRALIA AND WORLD WAR I

Look at the maps and read the information on these worksheets from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website to develop an understanding of Australia’s involvement in World War I. Topics and worksheets 1 (a and b), 2 (a, b, c, g and h) and 3 (a, b, c, d and e) would be valuable resources for students to discover some-thing of the background information and different views about the ‘Great War’ as World War I is often called and Australia’s involvement in that war.

The map in this guide shows the Gallipoli Peninsula and some of the key sites in relation to the 1915 - 1916 campaign. What is difficult to see from many maps is the nature of the terrain on which the fighting took place. However, the scenes in this film shot at Gallipoli do give some insight into the impossibilities of scaling cliffs where the enemy waiting above on the cliffs is able to pick off the soldiers coming up from the beaches.

Read the brief account of the Gallipoli campaign above.
ATOM website at http://www.metromagazine.com.au/studyguides/study.asp includes many study guides of programs and documentaries relevant to Australia at war and particularly in relation to Gallipoli. There is a map of the Gallipoli peninsula in this guide.

Many maps of this region can be viewed online, presenting different perspectives on the terrain and the position of the peninsula in strategic terms. Note the scale to understand the size of the area in which the battles were conducted. See map on the following page:


THE DAWN OF THE ANZAC LEGEND

It was a British war correspondent’s despatches — Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett — that gave Australians the first definite news of how their countrymen had gone into battle at Gallipoli on 25th April, 1915. Ashmead-Bartlett’s highly-coloured description of the landing of the Anzacs, published in Australia on 8th May, captured the nation’s imagination: ‘They waited neither for orders nor for the boats to reach the beach, but, springing out into the sea, they waded ashore, and, forming some sort of rough line, rushed straight on the flashes of the enemy’s rifles.’ The population thrilled that such descriptions should come from a British writer. Some have claimed that this was where the Anzac legend began.

As the campaign dragged on, Ashmead-Bartlett became increasingly critical of the way it was being conducted. His views influenced the dismissal of the British Commander-in-Chief in October 1915, and eventually even the decision to evacuate the peninsula. The authorities became wary of him.

You can read the letter this British war correspondent wrote to British Prime Minister Asquith in September, 1915 that was delivered to the authorities by Keith Murdoch at: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/ashmeadbartlett_letter.htm.

Ashmead-Bartlett toured Australia in 1916 giving lectures that were as eagerly received as his writing. Other correspondents would later take up and reinforce his popular image of the Anzacs as bronzed, brave and hardy soldiers.

• What is the essential difference between a myth and a legend? How does an event or the deeds of an individual or people from the past become legendary? What or who might an expression such as, ‘He was a legend in his own lifetime’ refer to?

• How do deeds merit the claim of legend? What is needed to push these claims along?
25 APRIL [0630 HRS]:
MUSTAFA KEMAL COMMANDER OF THE TURKISH 19TH DIVISION RUSHES ENTIRE DIVISION TO SARI BAIR TO CONTAIN ANZACS

25 APRIL [0600 HRS]:
ANZAC Z BEACH LANDING AGAINST LIGHT OPPOSITION FAILS TO CONSOLIDATE EARLY GAINS; 15,000 ANZACS DRIVEN BACK TO BEACHES BY TURKISH 19 DIV COUNTER ATTACK [PM]

NAVAL ATTACK ABANDONED AFTER 5 SHIPS STRIKE MINES
THE FIRST ANZAC DAY IN 1916

On the first anniversary of Anzac Day in 1916 there was a collision between politics and mourning.

Prime Minister Billy Hughes, with the assistance of journalist Keith Murdoch, manufactured the failure of Gallipoli into a kind of triumph and turned the day into an energetic recruitment campaign. After the huge enthusiastic response to the call-up in 1914 by 1916 the Army was having enormous difficulty replenishing its numbers on the Western Front as recruitment had plummeted.

At the same time the first anniversary was marked by displays of crippling emotion with the vast crowds that gathered becoming overcome by grief.

- Who is the keeper of the Anzac legend? The Anzac legend has always been a version of the past, one Australians, but not all, want to hear. But like all myths, it shifts and changes to suit contemporary popular ideologies, and support the institutions and the values that uphold them.

- Public commemoration can serve many different masters with many political agendas. It's not static, it's highly adaptable. For example the Australian War Memorial was the vision of CEW Bean who had a very particular way he felt Australia should remember Anzac and World War One. This shrine is the epicentre of remembrance in Australia. People flock from all over the country to come here. It’s the most visited public institution in the country. You’ve probably been here yourself to learn the official history of World War One. https://www.awm.gov.au

- But what is the purpose of this place? Is it about national identity? Is it about commemorating the dead? Or is it primarily about education? Can it be all these things? What makes it into our official history?

- The Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park that opened in 1934 bears the Inscription “Let Silent Contemplation be your Offering”. This was built by people directly affected by World War One and it seems to be quite a different request to that being made to Australians now during the centenary for which we are spending almost 320 million dollars – more than any other nation. Why is that? http://www.anzacmemorial.nsw.gov.au

THE WESTERN FRONT

In 1914 Germany invaded key industrial parts of France. The allies immediately attempted to repel the invaders but the Germans dug in a series of trenches that we call the Western Front, which, stretched over 700km through France and Belgium. The ANZACS were part of a vast multinational allied force tasked with breaking the German line.

The Western Front is difficult for Australians to get our heads around. It lies in the shadow of Gallipoli, and is far more complex. The details are often lost in the mud of the trenches and the protracted warfare that engulfed Europe form 1914 to 1918. And we can’t easily place Australians on the Western Front. But it was here that over 300,000 Australians fought and around 50,000 died, compared to 8000 at Gallipoli.

“In March 1916, after Gallipoli, the ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) were sent to France to an area known as the Western Front, where the war was bogged down in trenches and mud. During 1916–17, the warring sides advanced only metres at a time. In 1917, the United States of America (USA) joined the war. In March 1918 the German army launched a massive offensive to break the deadlock, hoping to win an advantage before significant numbers of USA soldiers arrived. Finally, between April and November 1918, the armies combined infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft more effectively with American troops and their medical support. Germany surrendered on 11 November 1918” (Quote from website below). See map on the following page: http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia.australian-story/australians-on-the-western-front
Between 18 and 20 September 1918, the 48th Battalion, Fourth Division AIF, fought its last successful action on the Western Front. Advancing on the Hindenburg Outpost Line near Bellenglise, they suffered 65 casualties but captured 500 prisoners, ‘nearly one per man of the battalion’. Holding the line they got into a ‘bit of a fight’ for which Private James Woods was awarded the Victoria Cross. The Division, achieving all its objectives, took more than 4300 prisoners for 1260 casualties. Today the Fourth Division’s memorial in France stands on the heights above Bellenglise. It is little visited”. (Quote from website below).


The 12 sites on the Australian Remembrance Trail on the Western Front do not cover all the places Australians fought in France and Belgium from 1916 to 1918. See Table on the following page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Battle Location</th>
<th>Date of Battle</th>
<th>What happened here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Passchendaele</td>
<td>October–November 1917</td>
<td>Failed Australian attack in the final phase of 3rd Battle of Ypres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Broodseinde</td>
<td>October–November 1917</td>
<td>Australian victory, the third in a series of successes after the Battle of Menin Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Polygon Wood</td>
<td>September 1917</td>
<td>Australian victory at 3rd Battle of Ypres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Messines</td>
<td>June 1917</td>
<td>Australian victory – 3rd Divisions first major battle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Fromelles</td>
<td>July 1916</td>
<td>The 5th Division suffers a disastrous defeat in the first major Australian operation on the Western Front.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Bullecourt</td>
<td>April–May 1917</td>
<td>During the Battle of Arras, the first Australian attack on Bullecourt fails, the second succeeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Pozières</td>
<td>July–August 1916</td>
<td>1st Anzac Corps captures Pozières village and the heights beyond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mouquet Farm</td>
<td>August–September 1916</td>
<td>Australian defeat – After Pozières, 1st Anzac Corps fails to capture Mouquet Farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Le Hamel</td>
<td>July 1918</td>
<td>Brigades from 2nd, 3rd and 4th Australian Divisions capture Le Hamel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Villers-Bretonneux</td>
<td>April 1918</td>
<td>At the second battle of Villers-Bretonneux the Australians recapture the village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mont St Quentin</td>
<td>September 1918</td>
<td>2nd Australian Division captures Mont St Quentin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Péronne</td>
<td>September 1918</td>
<td>South of Mont St Quentin, Péronne is taken by 5th Australian Division.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Bellenglise</td>
<td>September 1918</td>
<td>4th Division captures the Hindenburg Outpost Line in its last battle of the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Gueudecourt</td>
<td>November 1916</td>
<td>Rested after Pozières, 1st Anzac Corps returns to the Somme, making limited gains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Lagnicourt</td>
<td>April 1917</td>
<td>The Australians repulse a German counterattack between the First and Second Battles of Bullecourt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Hébuterne</td>
<td>March–April 1918</td>
<td>4th Australian Division defensive victory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Dernancourt</td>
<td>March–April 1918</td>
<td>Australian defensive victory south of Albert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Morlancourt</td>
<td>March–June 1918</td>
<td>Between the Aisne and Somme rivers 2nd, 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions in turn advance towards Morlancourt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Hazebrouck</td>
<td>April 1918</td>
<td>1st Australian Division holds Hazebrouck against the German Sixth Army.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Marris</td>
<td>May–June 1918</td>
<td>1st Australian Division, in a series of small operations, recovers ground lost in the German offensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Etinehem</td>
<td>August 1918</td>
<td>13th Brigade (4th Division) captures Etinehem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Bray</td>
<td>August 1918</td>
<td>The Australians capture Bray as part of the general advance from 8 August.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Proyart</td>
<td>August 1918</td>
<td>Several days after the commencement of the 8 August offensive, the Australian 10th brigade (3rd Division) captures Proyart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Chuignes</td>
<td>August 1918</td>
<td>Australians capture Chuignes ridge overlooking the Somme during the Second Battle of Albert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Lihons</td>
<td>August 1918</td>
<td>1st Australian Division captures Lihons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Bellicourt</td>
<td>September 1918</td>
<td>The Australian Corps breaks through the Hindenburg Line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Montbrehain</td>
<td>October 1918</td>
<td>The last phase of the Hindenburg Line breakthrough and the Australian infantry’s last battle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PEOPLE APPEARING IN THE PROGRAM**

» **KATE AUBUSSON — PRESENTER**

Kate is a reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a radio journalist and film critic. She graduated with a Bachelor of International Communications at Macquarie University in 2011, having completed a heavy course load in modern and ancient history.

Kate’s work has been published by national and international media outlets including *Time Magazine*, Fairfax and News Ltd, the UK’s *Monocle24*. She is a regular film critic and commentator on ABC radio. She spent several months working as a journalist in Accra, Ghana for the national newspaper The Ghanaian Times, travelling throughout West Africa to report on regional, political and social affairs including Ghana’s first oil drill and the plight of Liberian refugees.

Having worked as a researcher at the University of Technology, Sydney while a student, Kate went on to become a medical journalist for Cirrus Media and a senior journalist for *Australian Doctor* magazine. Kate was also the youngest founding committee member of the national Women in Media initiative that aims to empower Australian women in the industry.

She joined the Pony Films team in 2014 to embark on an epic journey across continents to discover: when Australians say ‘Lest We Forget’, what are we supposed to remember?

» **PROFESSOR ROBIN PRIOR — MILITARY HISTORIAN**

Prior is an internationally acclaimed authority on the history of warfare, with a comprehensive knowledge of World War One. He is not simply interested in the Australian involvement in the war; he has a sound understanding of the war in an international context. He has published seven books on the First World War.

His most recent book, *Gallipoli: The End of the Myth* (2009) is acknowledged as a game-changer in how we understand the Gallipoli Campaign. Prior tears down the myth of the Anzacs – we were not cannon fodder, laid to waste by inept British generals. The campaign was not a near victory – it failed by a very wide margin indeed. But even so, as he tells Kate Aubusson when they visit Anzac Cove:

*If we, by some miracle, had won [there] … nothing would have changed. Trying to convince people of that…that even when you win nothing changes. Why does nothing change? Because the Turks aren’t the main enemy. The*
main enemy are the Germans. They’re on the Western Front. You beat Germany or you lose the war. You don’t beat Turkey and win the war. This is very difficult for people to come to terms with. They want to know that what happened here was important.’

He spent 20 years at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA), where he was appointed the inaugural Head of School in 2003. He recognises the importance an informed and unclouded version of the past plays in the success of future campaigns. In 2012, Prior was elected to the Australian Academy of Humanities as a Fellow. He is currently a Professor of History at Flinders University.

» PROFESSOR JOAN BEAUMONT — HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR

Joan Beaumont is a regular commentator in the media about the history of Australians at war, and her most recent book, Broken Nation: Australians and the Great War (2013) won the 2014 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Australian History. Broken Nation knits together the battlefront and the home front in a way that has not been precisely explored before. As she explains to Kate in Lest We Forget What?; ‘you’ve got broken bodies, you’ve got broken families, you’ve got broken hearts … of the people who were bereaved but in a wider sense, Australia as a society and as a body politic was broken by the war and left the society perhaps less adventurous, less innovative, less spontaneous and that in many ways the post war society was a much more xenophobic, conservative and divided society.’

She is a graduate of the University of Adelaide and the University of London (King’s College) (PhD), a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Beaumont joined the Strategic Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University in 2012 as a Professor of History, and has published several internationally acclaimed books on Australia in the two world wars, war memory and heritage (and the ANZAC legend), as well as prisoners of war.

» OTHER INTERVIEWEES

- Dr Roger Lee. Head of the Australian Army History Unit.
- The Honourable Brendan Nelson. Director of the Australian War Memorial
- Major General Jim Molan AO DSC
- Dr Rhys Crawley. Military Historian
- Joe Flick. Descendant Aboriginal WWI veteran.

THE FILMMAKERS

» RACHEL LANDERS — DIRECTOR

Rachel completed a PhD in history at the University of Sydney and a post-graduate directing diploma at the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Working in theatre after graduation, she then moved into film as a writer/director and producer of drama and documentary.

Her films have screened at numerous international festivals, been broadcast all over the world and have won and been nominated for a number of awards.

She made the feature documentary A Northern Town nominated for the prestigious UK Grierson Innovation award, a United Nations media award and was a finalist for best documentary in the Dendy’s and the Film Critics Circle of Australia. A Northern Town, which Rachel also shot, won an AACTA/AFI for Best Cinematography and the Premiers Multimedia History Award. Rachel produced and shot the feature documentary The Snowman selected for competition at IDFA; nominated for an AACTA award for Best Feature Documentary and won the Foxtel Australian Documentary Prize. Rachel’s documentary The Inquisition screened on the ABC and France O and was in
competition at FIFO.

At the end of 2011 Rachel was awarded the NSW Premier’s History Fellowship and appointed Head of Documentary at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. In 2012 she relaunched the AFTRS Documentary Department with a ground breaking curriculum, offering world-class training in non-fiction filmmaking. In 2013 Rachel was the keynote speaker for the NSW Premier’s History Awards.

In 2014/15, in addition to working at AFTRS, she completed production on the ABC/Screen Australia funded documentary Lest We Forget What? for the centenary of World War one and is currently completing her first non-fiction book for New South Books that will be published in 2015.

DYLAN BLOWEN - PRODUCER

Award winning filmmaker Dylan Blowen began his career in Los Angeles working at Paramount and Universal. Later, he moved to New York to produce live television before moving to Sydney in 2002 where he formed Pony Films with Rachel Landers to produce successful, award-winning high impact films. His films have screened all over the world and won many prizes including the Foxtel Documentary Prize at the Sydney Film Festival and the NSW Premier’s History Prize as well as nominations for a Grierson Innovation Award and AFI for best feature documentary.

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Before watching Lest We Forget What? respond to the following questions and statements. Share your knowledge.

1. What does the acronym, ANZAC, stand for? A useful reference for the meanings the term has come to mean and imply can be found at: https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/anzac/acronym/

2. In what contexts is Anzac used today? What does it imply or suggest?

3. What historic occasion is commemorated annually in Australia on April 25th? What does 11th November commemorate? Why is April 25th regarded as especially important in 2015?

4. Share your understanding of Australia’s role in World War One. For how long had Australia been a federated nation and with which country did our major allegiances lie? Were Australians at direct risk from the enemy in World War One?

5. Which countries fought in World War 1 in Europe and the Middle East? List as many of these countries as you can in two columns — those who were fighting on the same side as the British and those who fought for the opposing side.

6. What were the major factors that precipitated World War One?

7. Have you ever been to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra or to any other place of commemoration such as Melbourne’s Shrine of Remembrance or Sydney’s Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park? What main function do these places serve?

8. In what ways are commemorations important in our lives? Does what happened in the past matter? Why? In what ways might it be important to share a sense of belonging with previous generations whose lives were lived under very different circumstances to our own? Does getting as close as possible to a verifiable ‘truth’ about what happened in the past matter? Is it possible to achieve this and how can we track and assess the evidence?

9. Are myths and stories important to people to give them a sense of belonging and a sense that their lives and those of their ancestors matter?

10. Can myths and legends be at conflict with history? Why does this matter?
Lest We Forget What? is constructed as a journey of discovery undertaken by 27 year old journalist Kate Aubusson. She goes to places in Australia and overseas that are important for developing a sense of why our remembrances of Australian involvement are so strongly centred on the Gallipoli campaign. She speaks with people who share a range of views about the war and our remembrances.

We need to remember the complexities of the past to understand the realities of the lives of the dead. The Fairytales we tell do not make them human — Kate Aubusson.

1 In 2014 Kate travels to Istanbul and then to Gallipoli on April 25th, a date when numbers of young Australians make what has come to be regarded as a pilgrimage to the Gallipoli Dawn Service on Anzac Day. She realises that much of what she and many of her fellows know about WWI is based on Peter Weir’s 1981 fiction film Gallipoli.

2 On returning to Australia, Kate visits the military college at Duntroon to find out what today’s military cadets learn about the past. She speaks with military historians and ex-serving soldiers about some of the Gallipoli myths and other aspects of warfare and war history. Kate encounters a very different version of what happened in the Gallipoli campaign from the Australian military to the version she heard from many people at Anzac Cove. Modern Australian soldiers - living Anzacs - are taught that it is imperative that they know the truth about previous military campaigns and not the myths. This information is critical to their training as soldiers and without this knowledge they can get themselves killed. The head of the Australian Army History Unit asserts that much of what comes down the Media line for the Gallipoli commemoration is mythical,
Kate meets with one of Australia’s most decorated living soldiers – he challenges some widely held assumptions about WWI diggers that they were simply victims rather than killers. He reiterates the warning that “the real failure in any military is to believe its own myths and legends.” He states that military history is available and important for all Australians to know.

Kate questions why there is conflict between the popular mythology of WWI and what living ANZACs learn about military history. She wonders why if soldiers want to know and learn the truth about WWI why can’t the rest of us. She compares the history of ANZACs to the history of the ANZAC biscuits. The Anzac wafers delivered to soldiers at Gallipoli were tasteless, brick-like hard tack. In 1923 Arnott’s added butter, golden syrup and late coconut and made them delicious. She realises that mythology makes history yummy.

Kate visits the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, established at the end of the First World War under the auspices of war historian C.E.W. Bean. The War Memorial reflected Bean’s vision of a place where the spirit of serving military personnel and those who died in wars could be honoured. It’s a powerful place in Australian collective memory. She visits the director Dr Brendan Nelson and finds the records of a relative who fought at Gallipoli. It’s also a place of contradiction with a commercial gift shop selling war paraphernalia and a Discovery Zone for kids to experience war zones first hand.

Kate visits an important but almost unknown memorial on a hill overlooking Canberra, the grave of a senior officer who died at Gallipoli in 1915, one of only two slain soldiers whose bodies were returned to Australia from the Gallipoli campaign.

Returning to Turkey, Kate continues her search for why our WWI memories are so focused on what happened at Gallipoli there she meets up with Professor Robin Prior, author of a 2009 book, Gallipoli: the end of the myth (Yale University Press/University of New South Wales Press). Professor Prior takes apart many of the myths that Kate grew up believing were true. He underlines the fact that the real enemy were the Germans and it was on the Western Front not Gallipoli that the war would be won or lost. Kate also learns that the Turkish population revere their soldier’s sacrifices at Gallipoli as much as we do and regard it as a campaign that led to the birth of their nation, the Republic of Turkey.

Kate goes to the Western Front in France and Belgium where Australian soldiers fought alongside the British, American and others from Commonwealth countries such as Canada, New Zealand and India in World War I. She speaks with historian Joan Beaumont about the Australian contribution to these battles in holding back the German advance. Of the more than 295,000 Australians who served in this theatre of war in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), 46,000 lost their lives and 132,000 were wounded.

Joan Beaumont reveals to Kate that the Australian Imperial Force lost more troops in a few weeks around mid July 1916 than in the entire 9-month campaign at Gallipoli. The AIF began to have enormous difficulty replenishing its numbers. Recruitment numbers fell as the reality of the war set in. This led to two bitterly contested conscriptions referendums in 1916 and 1917. Both were narrowly defeated but led to ongoing divisions in Australian society.

Kate learns that unlike the untrained troops at Gallipoli, the AIF on the Western Front evolved into a brilliant fighting force that became known for its skill and battle-hardened experience. They participated in decisive victories that broke the German defensive Hindenburg line, which led to the allied victory in 1918.

Kate discovers that five sites that the AIF chose to commemorate their victories on the Western Front
immediately after the war - Pozieres, Sailly-le-Sec, Polygon Wood, Mont St Quentin and Bellenglise - have been largely forgotten and are seldom visited.

12 Kate travels to Montbrehain, the remote battle site where the AIF fought their last battle before the end of the War.

13 Kate meets Joe Flick, an Aboriginal Australian whose grandfather was killed on the Western Front. She learns about the Indigenous soldiers were treated on their return home and the impact this distant war had on families in Australia.

14 With Professor Joan Beaumont Kate visits the Museum of the Great War, located on the Somme River in France. This museum is focused on experiences on the home front as well as the battlefront. She learns of the enormous suffering of mothers and wives. Because the bodies of Australian soldiers were not repatriated those families were not able to have the kind of ‘closure’ we regard as essential for the families of serving soldiers killed in action in contemporary society.

15 Kate visits the grave of a relative who was killed on the Western Front. She realises that it would have been virtually impossible for the mothers of those killed to visit the graves on their sons.

16 Kate attends the multi-national commemoration at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres Belgium on Remembrance Day November 11th.

17 Returning to Australia Kate learns of the ongoing impact of the war upon returned soldiers. Many would have trouble adjusting to peace, many were disabled and 1000s would die in the decade after the war. She visits the Venereal Disease Quarantine station on isolated Milson Island on the Hawkesbury River in NSW where many returned soldiers spent time.

18 Kate visits the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial, which contains the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Acknowledging the rich complexity of the stories to be told about the war and its effects on soldiers, nurses, families and children Kate knows she has learned a far richer narrative about the war. She recites the Siegfried Sassoon poem, *Aftermath?* - written in 1919 - about memory and forgetting.

### HISTORY, MEMORY AND STORYTELLING

*Charles Bean himself said that the only memorial, which could be worthy of the soldiers, was the bare and un-coloured story of their part in the campaigns — Kate Aubusson*

History is an umbrella term that relates to past events as well as the memory, discovery, collection, organization, presentation, and interpretation of information about these events. Scholars who write about history are historians.

Storytelling is an account of a real or imagined situation designed to entertain, engage and inform.

### STUDENT ACTIVITY — REFLECTING ON ASPECTS OF KATE AUBUSSON’S JOURNEY

- At the Australian War Memorial Kate encounters many aspects of this place’s role as custodian of our military history. In what ways does the difference between the original Anzac biscuits — ‘hard tack’ — and the contemporary sweet and chewy Arnott’s Anzac biscuits reveal the difference between the myth and reality of life for the Anzacs to the young visitors at the War Museum?

- While the 8 year olds have some idea of the difference between ‘history’ and ‘storytelling’, is it reasonable, or even possible to expect them to grasp the realities of warfare through interactive play in the ‘Discovery Zone’ and exploration in a museum?

- ‘The unimaginable impact of the war on those at home’. How do her personal connections through members of her own family make real to Kate the kind of suffering endured by both the soldiers and their families back in Australia? Most of these families — wives and partners, mothers, brothers and sisters and children — were unable to achieve any kind of ‘closure’ or even have objects and images to hold as ‘keepsakes’ and tangible tokens to remember their family members killed in battles far away. What are some of the generational disruptions and destruction of happiness caused by deaths in wars?

- In what ways does the poignancy of Joe Flick’s response to what happened to his family members bring home some of the really difficult and disturbing truths about who served, who should be honoured and what form this honouring should take?

- How different is Kate’s understanding of World War One at the end of the film to the one she began. What has she learnt? Why is it important to her?
Memory and storytelling are both important parts of constructing a historical narrative about the past.

Many historians regard their work as ‘telling a story’ about people and events from the past, i.e. the importance of engaging the reader is widely valued in writing history. Using historical facts and a variety of primary sources such as letters, artefacts and diaries is highly valued in creating an authentic and rich historical account. Datelines and statistics sometimes need to be grounded in real stories of human lives forever changed.

- **When.** In what ways are datelines of significant events important to our understanding of the past?
- **Who.** What part do the stories of individuals, often gathered from letters, diaries and other written and visual records, play in engaging readers in historical accounts of events from the past?
- **Where.** Can visiting an historical site such as the Gallipoli Peninsula or the cemetery at Villers-Brettoneux on the battlefields in France help us to better understand the nature of wartime experiences?
- **What.** What happened — the events and actions, whether political, military, economic or cultural?

**DISENTANGLING MYTHS FROM VERIFIABLE FACT**

According to military historian Robin Prior and other historians who have researched the available information about the Gallipoli landing, there are many differences between the popular history many people learn about Gallipoli and the truth about what really happened there in 1915.

An important question to consider is whether discoveries about errors of fact and emphasis are able to shed any light on how and why the myth of Gallipoli and the forging of a distinctive and heroic Australian identity have continued to grow in Australia, particularly over the past 20 years. In the 1970s and 1980s there was a good deal of resistance to perpetuating many of the war stories about mateship and returned soldiers. There was even a popular play, set on many school syllabuses, *The One Day of the Year*, written in 1960 by Alan Seymour, which was a searing indictment of some of the things Anzac Day seemed to legitimise. Rather than portraying diggers as heroic figures, characters in the play deride the ex-soldiers for using the day as an excuse to disgrace themselves with alcohol and by fighting and vomiting in city streets. Since this time, there has been a massive re-engagement of younger people flocking to dawn services and wearing family medals in commemorative marches. Anzac Day has been re-imagined and is for many people much more than a welcome public holiday.


‘A century ago we got it wrong. We sent thousands of young Australians on a military operation that was barely more than a disaster. It’s right that a hundred years later we should feel strongly about that. But have we got our remembrance right? What lessons haven’t we learned about war, and what might be the cost of our Anzac obsession?’

“Former army officer James Brown believes that Australia is expending too much time, money and emotion on the Anzac legend, and that today’s soldiers are suffering for it.

Vividly evoking the war in Afghanistan, Brown reveals the experience of the modern soldier. He looks closely at the companies and clubs that trade on the Anzac story. He shows that Australians spend a lot more time looking after dead warriors than those who are alive. We focus on a cult of remembrance, instead of understanding a new world of soldiering and strategy. And we make it impossible to criticise the Australian Defence Force, even when it makes the same mistakes over and over. None of this is good for our soldiers or our ability to deal with a changing world. With
respect and passion, Brown shines a new light on Anzac’s long shadow and calls for change”.

‘Anzac’s long shadow is refreshing and engaging. It is also Frank and no-nonsense. James Brown sets himself apart as a leader in this new generation of Anzacs by asking the hard questions.’ Peter Leahy, Chief of the Australian Army, 2002-08 (Quotes above from website below)

http://www.tobrukhouse.com/anzacs-long-shadow-by-james-brown

Professor Joan Beaumont’s review of Anzac’s Long Shadow.


In What’s Wrong With Anzac? (2010) Marilyn Lake wrote that to question and explore Anzac Day is ‘to court the charge of treason’. Indeed, Anzac Day has become Australia’s national day of remembrance and identity, more so than January 26th or even November 11th. As such a powerful and legitimizing force in Australian historical memory, challenges to or questions of its meaning and purpose are often met with systematic resistance and rejection.

Through the iconic works of C. E.W. Bean, the Anzac landing at Gallipoli in 1915 has been inscribed in Australian history as our birth as a nation. The values embodied and protected by the Anzac soldiers – mateship, perseverance, bravery – were extended to define the nation and the ideal Australian. Bean’s history was ‘a monument to the men who fought’ (Inglis, 1998). Almost a century later Australian leaders, such as John Howard, maintained that the Anzac values were fought for by the ‘first sons of a young nation’, whose ‘brothers and mates’ gather to remember them in peacetime.

What does the information below suggest about the truth of some of the popular beliefs held by many Australians about the Gallipoli campaign? Discuss which of these assertions might tarnish or recast the Gallipoli story as it stands. The claims made by historians are in italics. See Table on following page.

- Diaries of soldiers and other military personnel such as those of war correspondent and later official war historian, C. E. W. Bean
- Letters written from and to serving personnel
- Photographs and some silent moving images on film
- Paintings and sketches
- Statistics about the war dead
- Artefacts such as uniforms and weapons used in the war
- Graves
- Official Government documents and records
- Newspaper and other media reports

- What is one of the complicating factors in establishing the realities and truths about what happened in many military campaigns?
- How much of the human story can be gleaned from figures and maps and recovered objects?
- What kind of proximity to the fighting do you think war correspondents such as C.E. W. Bean would have had in 1915?
- Why would letters by soldiers written to their families back home have been censored by the military authorities?
- What do you understand by the term ‘morale’ when it is used in relation to soldiers fighting battles? How can this be assessed?
- Why is it important to know as much about the reality of Australian participation in World War I battles and engagements as possible?
- In what ways do many of the long perpetrated and sometimes embroidered myths about the Gallipoli Campaign foster beliefs that Australians were ‘lambs to the slaughter’ or ‘cannon fodder’ for the British military in several of Britain’s war campaigns?
- How does the continuing desire ‘to show the poms who we really are’ manifest itself in contests today?
Some commonly held beliefs many military historians dispute about Australian involvement in Gallipoli during World War I in 1915. They are concerned that truth be valued if sacrifice is to be honoured.

| Everything about Simpson and his donkey is largely myth. |
| The story about how our troops went ashore in the face of thunderous machine gun fire is rubbish. |
| The biggest myth about Anzac is that it would probably have succeeded. |
| Dr Roger Lee — Head of Australian Army History Unit — speaking about the Gallipoli campaign in a lecture at Royal Military College, Duntroon |

| Most ANZACS were from the country and were natural bushmen thus natural soldiers. – C.E.W. Bean. |
| Australia was the second most urbanised countries on earth at the time and most men who went to fight were from the cities were not the rugged bushmen of popular belief – Professor Robin Prior |

| Australian soldiers in World War One cannot be seen as simply victims, who were ‘butchered like lambs at the slaughter’ in the words of Eric Bogle’s iconic ballad about Gallipoli ‘And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda’. According to Major General (Retired) Jim Molan, the Australians led the development of what was called the trench raid. They would launch into no-man’s land, capture a segment of trench, go in at night with clubs and beat people to death. |

| There were estimated to be 200,000 Ottoman (Turkish) casualties at Gallipoli, 20 to 30,000 British, 10,000 French, 1,500 Indians, 8,000 Australians and 2,500 New Zealanders. |

| The Anzac commemorative site is not actually at Anzac Cove; it is at North Beach, where there is a better space for large-scale commemorations. |

| The August Push |
| Australia’s official was historian, C.E.W. Bean, describes the Failure of the August Push in the following way, “The chance which existed during the night of establishing and extending the British foothold on Sari Bear was undoubted.” He said, “The occupation of the crest might have resulted in the falling back of the already shaken Turks from Anzac, the fall of Constantinople and a comparatively early victory and a complete alteration of the course and consequences of the war.” And that’s just rubbish. |
| Professor Robin Prior argues in his book Gallipoli: the end of the Myth that everything Bean says in that quotation is wrong. “We didn’t nearly get the ridge. It’s complete myth. The August offensive failed by a very wide margin indeed. If we, by some miracle, had won, if the Turks had suddenly thrown up their hands and said, “That’s it, we’re off”, and we had gone up and occupied Constantinople, nothing would have changed. Try to convince people of that, that even when you win nothing changes. Why does nothing change? Because the Turks aren’t the main enemy. The main enemy are the Germans. They’re on the Western Front. You beat Germany or you lose the war. You don’t beat Turkey and win the war. This is very difficult for people to come to terms with. They want to know that what happened at Gallipoli was important”. |
| The failure of the August push is laid at the feet of the British troops who, instead of assisting the Anzacs, sat around at Suvla Bay sipping tea. The two operations were completely separate. The troops at Suvla Bay were Irish not British. The ‘Suvla Bay Tea Party’ story was a conspiracy on the part of official historians (including C.E.W. Bean) to tell the same sort of story that mitigated the overall failure of the campaign and to characterise Australians as ‘lambs to the slaughter’. |

| Australian casualties in the first weeks of the 1916 campaign on the Western Front in Europe were greater than those killed in the entire 9 months of the Gallipoli Campaign. |

| All Australians who served and died on the Western Front were volunteers as the two conscription referendums in Australia during WWI were defeated. Campaigns on the Western Front (that the AIF chose to memorialise their victories immediately after the war) such as Bellenglise, Pozieres, Polygon Wood, Mont Saint-Quentin and Sainy-le-Sec where the Australians were involved in pushing back the Germans are virtually unknown in Australian war memory as Gallipoli, 1915 overshadows them all. (Professor Joan Beaumont) |

| Over 1,000 Aboriginal soldiers fought in the First World War. They returned home to the same discrimination they encountered when they left Australia and were not allowed in the RSL clubs except on Anzac Day. |

| Venereal disease was rife amongst soldiers. By the end of 1918, over 60,000 soldiers had VD more than were killed during the War. This was little known and the treatments were often ineffective. Protecting the national myth of Australia as a virile white nation was paramount at the time. |
Do you think the perpetuation of myths such as many of those attaching to Gallipoli ‘make war bearable’ as Major General Molan suggests?

Does it matter that Gallipoli was a failed campaign if it is accepted that Australians fought with great courage, valour and initiative? Do you know of a later war in which Australians fought and died that was lost to ‘the enemy’? How were these returned soldiers initially received on their return home?

Lest we forget what? Do you think we should alternate our focus annually on particular war zones where Australians have fought, such as the Western Front in WWI, The Pacific in WWII and later in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, or is it more appropriate to honour all those who died in battle through a continuing focus on one now iconic engagement — Gallipoli — in a war where Australians were part of the British Imperial Forces?

Anzac Day is a public holiday in Australia and New Zealand on April 25th. In 2015 it falls on a Saturday, so there is no extra public holiday being granted except in Western Australia. What are some of the special events that take place on Anzac Day in Australia and New Zealand? In what ways do you think these events keep the memory of those who have died in wars in the public mind?

The number of Australians killed on the Western Front is five times greater than that at Gallipoli.

“In proportion to forces fielded, Australia’s casualty rate was almost 65 per cent—the highest in the British Empire. One of the reasons for this was that Australians were exposed to the front line in massive numbers. During the course of the war, almost 60,000 Australians (nearly all men) died after sustaining injuries or illness. Most of these deaths (45,000) were on the Western Front. A further 124,000 were wounded (sometimes multiple times) and as a result, these men endured years of ill health, disfigurement or disability”.


**QUESTIONS ABOUT CASUALTY STATISTICS IN WWI.**

Of those Australian soldiers who survived, more than half of them were discharged medically unfit. Of those who were not discharged medically unfit, 60 per cent of them applied for pension help in the post war period; so four out of five servicemen survivors were damaged or disabled in some way. Of those who did not survive, it is now estimated that 62,300 died (+/- 400), approximately 550 by their own hand, mainly in 1919 and 1920, and a further 8000 men would die a premature death due to war-related causes in the post war years.

How did the official casualty statistics become so distorted? Was it a conspiracy to cover it up or was it the incompetence of the official historian Bean or Australia’s forgotten official medical historian A.G. “Gertie” Butler. Or was it simply an unquestioning acceptance of the official statistics?

It is timely that the official Australian First World War casualty record is rewritten, but not simply to correct this large
dimension of Anzac history. It is required to be rewritten to fulfill our nation’s commitment to the men of the AIF: we shall remember all of them, lest we forget. (Quotes from websites below)


http://thoseweforget.com

100 YEARS ON

... For us at the Australian War Memorial, the importance of the centenary of the First World War is to guard the records of service...to see that Australians feel and understand that the spirit of these men and women who served is here represented by the objects, the artefacts ...the telling of the stories, their service and sacrifice — Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War memorial

2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. There will be many opportunities for people to remember and honour those who died, some of these events commercial, offering a kind of immersive experience and others encouraging more reflection. Here are just some of them. As happens on every Anzac Day, there will be dawn services in cities and towns across the country at war memorials.

(N.B. The information in italics about Anzac commemorative events is taken from the websites advertising these events)

1. ATTENDANCE AT THE 2015 CENTENARY SERVICE AT GALLIPOLI

Such was the demand to attend this commemoration at Gallipoli that those wanting to attend had to be allocated places through a ballot.

Those who were successful in the randomly drawn ballot are required to arrange and fund their own travel to Turkey. The Australian Government will not be providing financial or travel assistance to successful ticket holders.

A wait list has been created for those ballot applicants who elected to participate, in order to distribute any passes returned from those unable to attend. The wait list will operate until 31 March 2015 and after that date, no remaining passes will be issued.

For those who don’t get offered a place in the ballot, please read about other opportunities (PDF 120 KB) to mark the Centenary.

There are also services in France at Villers-Brettoneux and other sites in France and Belgium where many Australian soldiers fought and died on the Western Front. The Fanatics, who are seen in the documentary running tours to Gallipoli, also organise tours in France... (And yes, they are the green and gold fanatics you may have seen at the tennis, the cricket and other sporting events)

2. CAMP GALLIPOLI

Camp Gallipoli is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all Australians and New Zealanders to come together on the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli to sleep out under the same stars as the original ANZAC heroes did 100 years ago. In a series of major locations around Australia and NZ families, schools, community groups - anyone can come and join in a special night of remembrance, entertainment, mateship and the birth of that special Aussie and Kiwi ANZAC spirit.

Each venue will have spaces set aside for camping using swags, just like the Diggers did, plus there will be entertainment, documentaries, a screening of ‘The Water Diviner’, special guests, great food options and a very special dawn service with breakfast on Anzac Day itself.


3. ALL THAT FALL: THE COMPLEXITY OF GALLIPOLI

This exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of Australia in Canberra runs from March 27th until July 26th, 2015. It focuses on the wide-ranging theme of loss and absence during World War 1 on the Australian home front.


An opinion piece by journalist Geraldine Doogue about the All That Fall exhibition and the essays in the book that accompany this exhibition.

This program offering a number of talks for students runs at the NGV Ian Potter Centre from April 24th — 16th August, 2015

The following poem — Aftermath was written in 1919 by English poet Siegfried Sassoon when he returned from active service in World War One. It is read in this documentary.

**AFTERMATH AND REFLECTION**

» **SIEGFRIED SASSOON**

**Aftermath**

Have you forgotten yet?

For the world’s events have rumbled on since those gagged days,

Like traffic checked while at the crossing of city-ways:

And the haunted gap in your mind has filled with thoughts that flow

Like clouds in the lit heaven of life; and you’re a man reprieved to go,

Taking your peaceful share of Time, with joy to spare.

*But the past is just the same—and War’s a bloody game...*  
*Have you forgotten yet?*  
*Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you’ll never forget.*

Do you remember the dark months you held the sector at Mametz—

The nights you watched and wired and dug and piled sandbags on parapets?

Do you remember the rats; and the stench

Of corpses rotting in front of the front-line trench—

And dawn coming, dirty-white, and chill with a hopeless rain?

Do you ever stop and ask, ‘Is it all going to happen again?’

Do you remember that hour of din before the attack—

And the anger, the blind compassion that seized and shook you then

As you peered at the doomed and haggard faces of your men?

Do you remember the stretcher-cases lurching back

With dying eyes and lolling heads—those ashen-grey

 Masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?

*Have you forgotten yet?*  

Look up, and swear by the green of the spring that you’ll never forget.

» **PAUL KEATING**

[Finally, here is part of an address by ex Prime Minister Paul Keating given on 11/11/ 2013]

‘One thing is certain: young Australians ... can no longer be dragooned en masse into military enterprises of the former imperial variety on the whim of so-called statesmen.

They are fortunately too wise to the world to be cannon fodder of the kind their young forebears became: young innocents who had little or no choice’.

Keating said he was heartened that so many young Australians ‘found a sense of identity and purpose from the Anzac legend’.

‘But the true commemoration of their lives, service and sacrifice is to understand that the essence of their motivation was their belief in all we had created here and our responsibility in continuing to improve it’.

‘Homage to these people has to be homage to them and about them and not to some idealised or jingoist reduction of what their lives really meant.’

He said Australians were drawn to the lesson about ‘supposedly ordinary people’.

‘What the Anzac legend did do, by the bravery and sacrifice of our troops, was reinforce our own cultural notions of independence, mateship and ingenuity. Of resilience and courage in adversity.’

‘We liked the lesson about supposedly ordinary people; we liked finding that they were not ordinary at all. Despite the fact that the military campaigns were shockingly flawed and incompetently executed, those ordinary people distinguished themselves by their latent nobility.’


• What is the most important point Keating is making about the nature of our remembrances?
• What is it that he believes we should remember?
RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

The Australian War Memorial website which offers a great deal of information about casualties and battles of World War I

An education unit prepared by The Shrine of Remembrance about World War One. This booklet includes an excellent set of references and resources about Australian involvement in World War I.
http://www.shrine.org.au/Shrine/Files/73/7388a76a-c5d7-4bde-932d-d761e8fc66db.pdf

Work units on the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website written by Australian teachers for students at a number of levels which address different aspects of World War I. All these work units have been successfully trialled in schools. The material is linked to the National Curriculum guidelines and includes Worksheets

Read about War Memorials and commemorations in other countries
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_memorial

An article and images from Bean’s diaries of the Gallipoli campaign

A review of a popular history about the Gallipoli campaign
http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jan/11/gal-lipoli-peter-fitzsimons-review-tragic-anzacs-heroism-deserves-better

A website that examines remembrance of WWI
http://honesthistory.net.au/

The Australian War Memorial site about Australian soldiers on the Western Front

Read about the extraordinary feats of the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba in 1917

Biographical information about Siegfried Sassoon whose poem Aftermath about World War I is recited towards the end of this documentary and reprinted in this guide
http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/sassoon

Endnotes

1 https://makinghistoryatmacquarie.wordpress.com/tag/anzac-day/

Marguerite O’Hara, 6/04/2105
Dr Rachel Landers, 9/04/15