

CONNECTING WITH AND COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC



How can you
commemorate
1915?



Bryan Westwood, Study for a Poppy from Lone Pine (1990), ANMM ART 23565

2015 is the 100th anniversary of the first major Australian involvement in World War 1 — the landing at Gallipoli.

This event, together with the subsequent Australian campaigns on the Western Front and Palestine in 1916-1918, are being officially commemorated by a large government-sponsored program.

Other Allied troops were also involved in the landing — British, French and Indian, as well as those of the enemy, the Ottoman Empire — and the campaign was a military

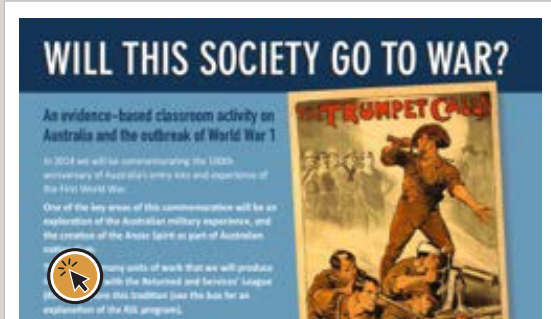
disaster, but the Australian and New Zealand campaign is special to us, as out of it came the Anzac Spirit, which is still an important part of Australian identity today.

In the previous units in this series we have asked what type of society Australia was in 1914 when World War 1 began, what the reactions were in Australia to its outbreak, what decisions the society had to

make once war had started, and what happened at the landing at Anzac on 25 April.

What do the people and events of 100 years ago, and their commemoration today, have to do with young people now?

This unit looks at connections that you can make to the people and events of 100 years ago, and how you can commemorate these.



Go to www.servingaustralia.info/education/#interactives

RSL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM — SERVING AUSTRALIA

2015 continues the centenary of Australian participation, and the focus for the year will be on the Gallipoli campaign. The following years are the centenary of other Australian involvement in the Great War: on the Western Front, in Palestine, on the seas and in the air, and on the home front.

This unit is part of an educational program about the centenary of Australian involvement in World War 1. It is sponsored as a civic and educational contribution to the young people of Australia by the Returned and Services League (RSL) and addresses the requirements of the Australian Curriculum History at Years 9 and 11/12.

Some of the main elements of this program include:

- ➔ Three curriculum units per year in eStudies for use at Years 6 and 9 to 12
- ➔ A new website, **Serving Australia**, that contains video, interactive modules, timelines, Centenary updates and information about youth and community programs.



Connecting and Commemorating



In 2015 and beyond we are being asked to commemorate the people and events of 100 years ago.

Commemoration means both remembering and acknowledging. To do this we need to know what happened and why. Then we can undertake appropriate activities that acknowledge the event in ways that have relevance and meaning for young people today.

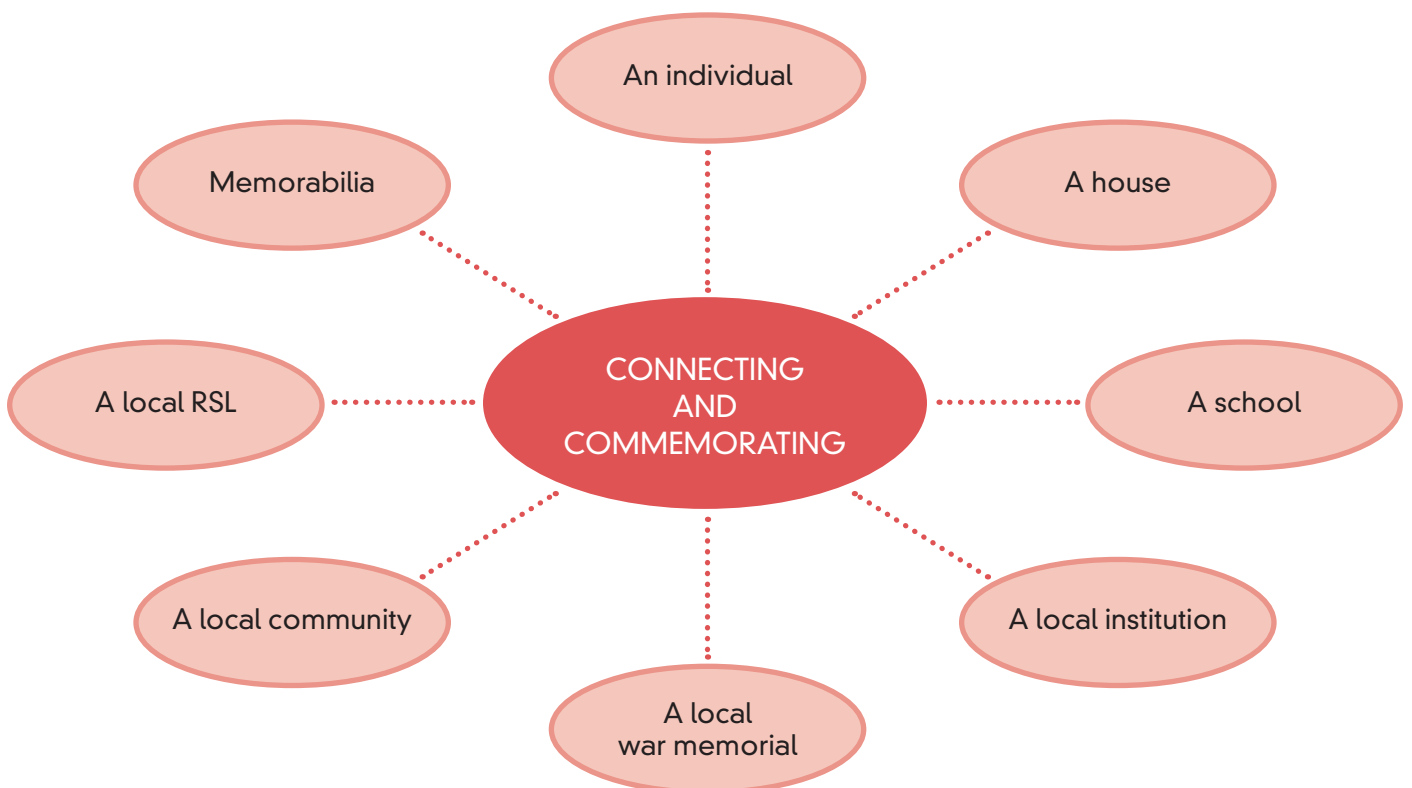
But for commemoration to be meaningful it also needs **Connections** to what is being commemorated. What does it have to do with me? How has it helped create the society I live in today? What do I think is valuable and meaningful about it? These connections can be made in many ways — through individual

men and women of 100 years ago (whether family or not), through schools, through other institutions such as churches, through local evidence in a community. But the most common and most powerful connection between you and this past is likely to be your local war memorial. This is the enduring physical record of the men and women of your community who served, and who died. Investigating this memorial can help you to realise that the people of 100 years ago were people just like us today, people whose actions and values helped create the society we enjoy today.

Here are the connections that we will look at in this unit and that you will be able to make in your own community.



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Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through AN INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER OR NURSE



The most personal commemoration that can be carried out is to remember a real person who went to war.

That person might be a member of your family. Or it might be someone from your community 100 years ago.

Many of you did not have relatives in Australia 100 years ago. That's OK, you can research that connection through your own family sources. But you still have a connection to

Australia now, and can still research the life of an individual who lived in Australia 100 years ago.

We can learn a lot about the individuals who went to war from Australia. Here are the steps you can take. For each step we have given you a real person to 'practice' on before you do the research on your own chosen person.

→ STEP 1 Have an individual name

It might be a family member, or a person from your community — for example, a name you have seen on the local war memorial, or in church, or on a school plaque.

Go to the Australian War Memorial www.awm.gov.au and [Family History](#), then [Search for a person](#).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

There may be information on that person from:

- Roll of Honour (if the person died during the war)
- First World War Embarkation Roll (if they went overseas)
- Nominal Roll (if they survived and were returned to Australia)
- Honours and Awards (if any)
- Red Cross Wounded and Missing (if a search was requested by a family member for more information about a missing person)
- Prisoner of War (if taken POW)

Then also try a general search for your person on the AWM site – this might provide you with a photograph.



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To practise this research process search for this person:

Roy C Tolmie

See which of the types of records are listed for him, and what information you can find out about him.

When you have looked at the appropriate records, decide what could be considered special about him?

→ STEP 2 Get the person's war file

Every soldier and nurse had a personal file. The World War 1 files have been digitised and are available online at no cost.

Go to the National Archives of Australia website www.naa.gov.au.

Choose Discovering Anzacs and enter the name.

This will give you his file details. Click and you will see the Attestation (enlistment) page for that person. Click Order this record to go to the full digital file.

This file will give you the history of that person from the day they enlisted to the day they died or were discharged from the Army. It will include such documentary information as:

- Their personal details on enlistment (name, age, address, next of kin)
- Personal appearance (height, weight, scars)
- Details of the unit/s they served in, including places where they served
- Details of any medical history — illness, wounds
- Details of any punishments for breaking military rules.



Do a search to find the file for Roy C Tolmie.

What new information about him does his file give you?

There may also be other documents — correspondence from family members, records of any court martial (military trial), details of changes of family members (for example if they married during leave).

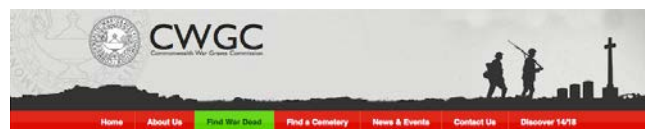
You can also Browse gallery to see if there are any photographs of your person on file.

→ STEP 3 Find out where the person is buried /commemorated



If your soldier died during the war you will be able to find where the person is buried (if he has a known grave), or where his name is commemorated on the main memorial walls in Belgium, France or Gallipoli.

Go to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website www.cwgc.org.



The CWGC has records of the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. It is also responsible for maintaining Commonwealth War Cemeteries in all countries where the forces were buried.

Search for Roy C Tolmie. How and where is his death commemorated?

Search Find war dead. Enter the name and you will be told where the person is buried (if there is a known grave) or commemorated (if the body was never identified).

You will find where the cemetery is, see a photograph of it, be able to see the registration details of the person, and read what the family put on the headstone (if they chose to).



Who was Roy C Tolmie? The search for him started with an unusual piece of information — his name inscribed on a headstone in a local cemetery in Melbourne. He was not buried there, but he was clearly loved by someone, possibly an aunt, and she had his name inscribed on her headstone on her death in July 1916.

You can see another way of connecting with an individual soldier through the online interactive case study Searching for Norman McLeod at <http://www.servingaustralia.info/education/#interactives>

Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through

A HOUSE



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Does your house have a connection to Anzac? If it is over 100 years old, it might. Even more recent houses might still have a connection — they may have been built on the site of an older house which had that connection.

It is very easy to find out.

Go to The AIF Project website <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/index.html>, enter to search and put in your address.

If your house, or the house of a friend, or of another house or shop in your local community is connected, you could create a small memorial plaque for display, giving visitors details about that connection.



Museum Victoria

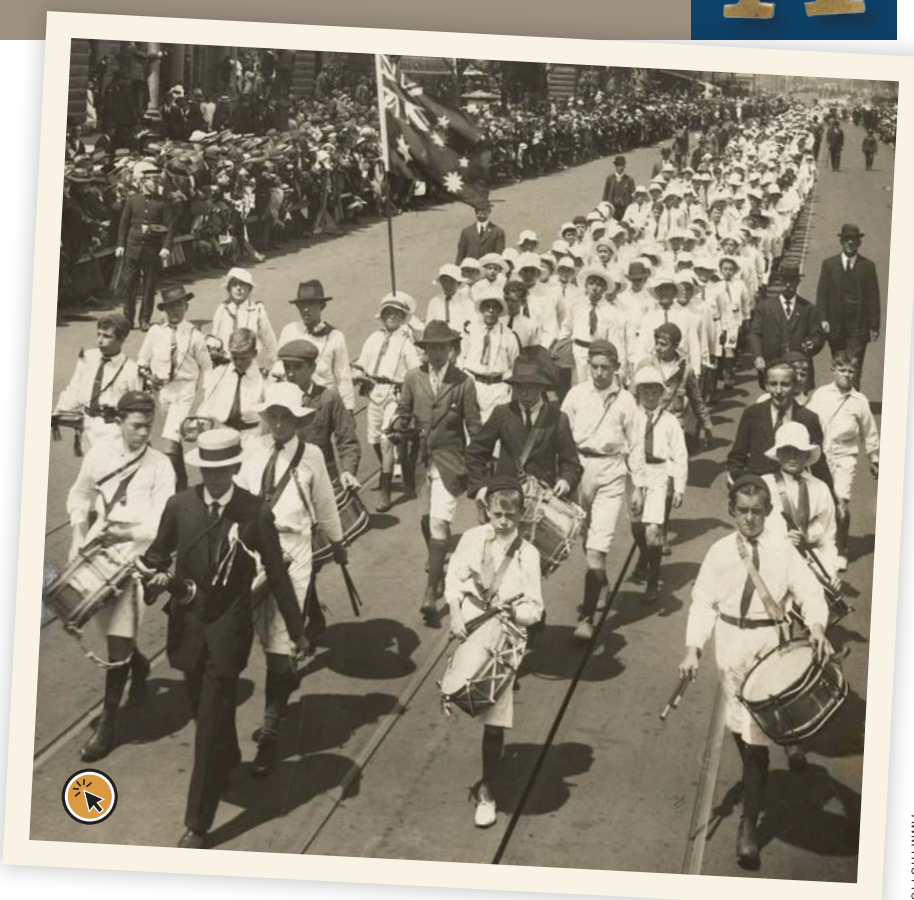
Certificate of Appreciation to Private Adam Duncan Waugh.



Roy Tolmie was living at 160 High Street Kew Victoria when he enlisted. That building is still there, though now it is a commercial building, with the residence above.

A large, three-dimensional gold letter 'A' is centered on a solid blue background. The letter has a metallic, slightly textured appearance.

Here are three examples. Discuss what they tell us.



If your school does not have a memorial you could develop a project to create one, and present it to the school.

Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through

A LOCAL INSTITUTION



It was not only schools that commemorated the soldiers and nurses who went to the war. Many other local institutions — churches especially, but also businesses, government departments, clubs and societies — also created memorial rolls of members.

As with school memorials they also provide us with information and evidence of relationships, attitudes and values of the time.

Here are three examples of memorials in local institutions. Discuss what they tell us.

A



St George's Anglican Cathedral, Perth, WA

B



Melbourne Teachers' College, Vic

C



Museum of Victoria

You can search for memorials in your own community by going to www.monumentaustalia.org.au, searching by specific categories of monuments and memorials — in this case World War 1, and then by State and Town.

Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through

A LOCAL WAR MEMORIAL



This is the key portal for making a personal connection to the men and women of your local community who went to war.

Every community in Australia is close to a local war memorial. This is true even if your community is a very new one — it has been carved out of a much older community that would have experienced the war 100 years ago, and for which there is almost certainly a war memorial built nearly 100 years ago.

The local war memorial is one of the most important sources of information about the war, because it can tell us about the number of people who enlisted and died, the relationships that existed between the men and the community, and attitudes and values of the time.

Here is one example of a community, its war memorial, and a story that emerges when you investigate that memorial.

1 The setting – Anzac Park in the small Victorian town of Briagolong

- What does this setting tell us about that community and its connection to the war?



2 The dedication

- What information does this give us?
- What can we say about the probable attitudes and emotions that existed in that community at that time?



3 One face (or side) of the memorial

- What powerful information does this give us?
- What can we say about the probable attitudes and emotions that existed in that community at that time?



4 A second face of the memorial

- What does this list tell us?
- What can we say about the probable attitudes and emotions that existed in that community at that time?
- Why would this list be included?
- Who do you think is excluded from this list?
- Would this be likely to unite or divide the community?



5 A dedication

- What other aspect of the impact of the war on the home front does this dedication suggest?



A cemetery headstone

Look back at the list of names on the memorial.
How many Whitelaws are there?

Here is the headstone of Annie Whitelaw.

- What story does it tell?
- How do you explain the apparent contradiction between her headstone and the memorial about the number of Whitelaw boys who 'paid the supreme sacrifice'?
- What attitude does the headstone suggest she had towards their service?
- What other emotions can we deduce from this headstone?

Research the personal files of the Whitelaw soldiers (see Investigation 1 for this). What does this information add to our knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with, the men and their family in this community?

Your local community probably has a similar memorial. Allocate the names among class members, and look at each person's service file. Create a table or database for the information you find, and discuss what this pooled information suggests to you about the volunteers from that community.

You should be able to create a picture that includes:

- Who enlisted
- When
- At what age
- With what religion
- Physical size
- Family connections
- War history
- Where served
- Illness and deaths
- Awards
- Breaches of military rules.

You may also discover other information in the files.



Mapping the Anzacs

As well as using the local war memorial, there is another way of finding names of local people who enlisted. Go to the National Archives of Australia website <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au> and click

Search by location. You can then enter a suburb or town and you will see the names of all soldiers who put that suburb or town as their birth place or place of residence.



Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through

A LOCAL COMMUNITY



Your local community may also give you some other ways of discovering the Anzac experience of 1915.

This may be through street names, names of parks, memorial avenues, statues, plaques, memorials in churches and other public and private buildings.

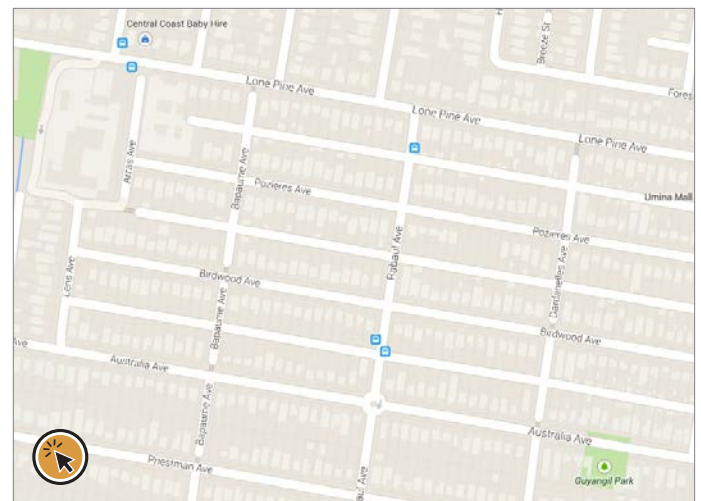
Here are some examples. What do they tell us about the influence of the war on that community?



A plaster cast of a statue to nurses, before it is cast in bronze. Lemnos, Gallipoli, Memorial, Albert Park, Vic



A memorial to General Pompey Elliott, Ballarat, Vic



A community rich in World War 1 names, Umina Beach, NSW



A memorial to Lighthorsemen, Tamworth, NSW



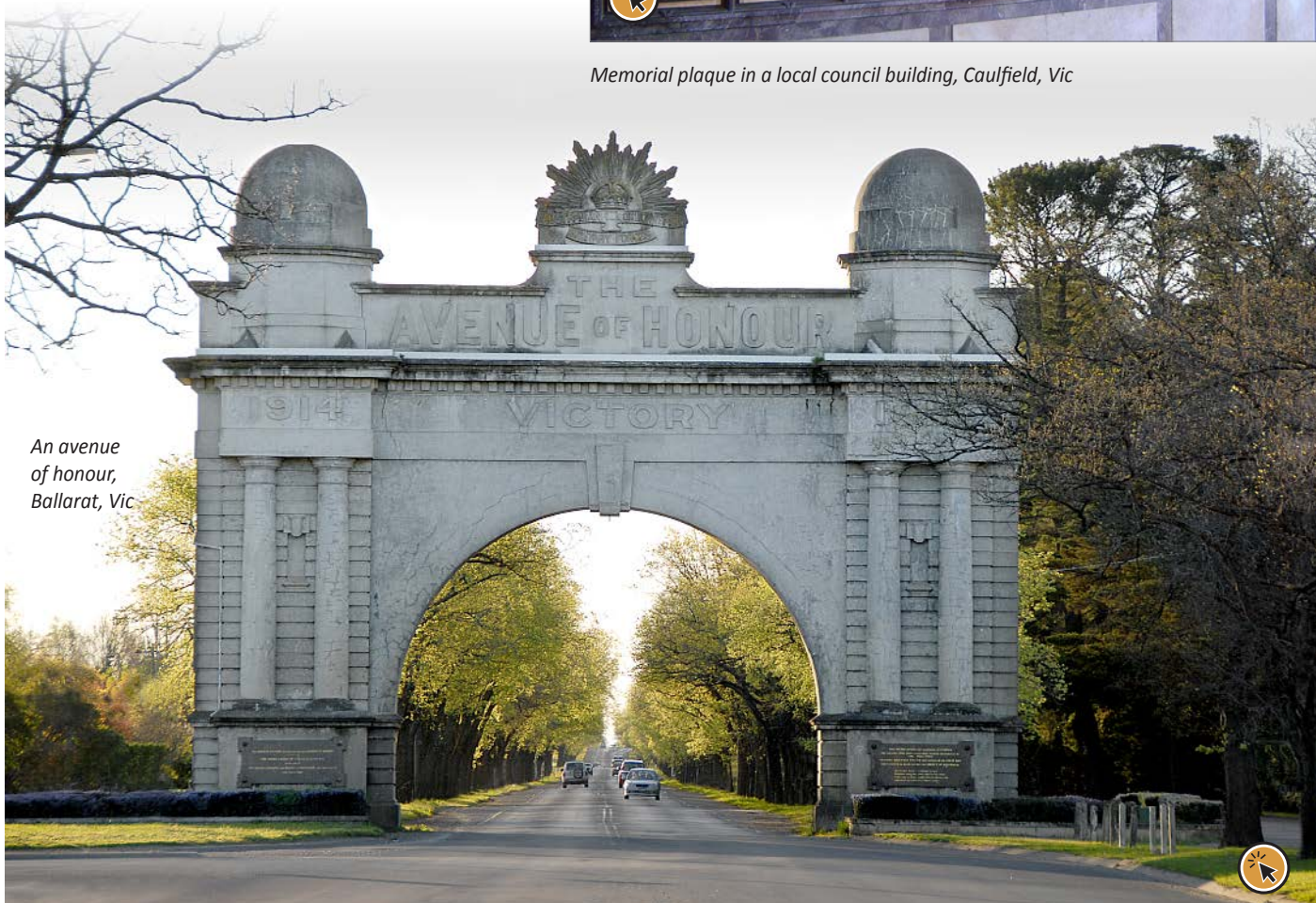
The grave of Australia's first Victoria Cross recipient of the war, Albert Jacka, St Kilda Cemetery, Vic



A community park, linked to the events at Gallipoli, Tamworth, NSW



Memorial plaque in a local council building, Caulfield, Vic



An avenue of honour, Ballarat, Vic

Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through

A LOCAL RSL



One of the best ways of making a connection is through the local Returned and Services League — the RSL.

RSL's often have small museum displays and displays of significant people, places and local units. They will also be able to provide speakers if required.



Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch assistant secretary Cheryl Barrett in front of the RSL's display of WWI artefacts. Pictured with a Digger's photo album.

A FRENCH trench periscope, Allied trench weapon and German first aid kit are among prized WWI artefacts on display at Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch's museum.

It became a registered museum last year after meeting Museums Australia criteria, and has a range of items on display donated or loaned to the Sub Branch by veterans and their families.

Other WWI artefacts on display include German paper bandages and a leg splint, and rosary beads with a letter sent to an AIF serviceman by his cousin to keep him safe.

Make contact with your local branch. You might organise a visit there, or ask for a speaker to come to your class. You could also work with the RSL in being involved in a local Anzac Day dawn service, or march.

Connecting with and Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac through MEMORABILIA



Many people have some memorabilia from the war. These can be a way of starting to connect and investigate the war further, and as a basis for commemoration.

Here are some common examples. What do they tell us about the hopes and fears, the emotions and attitudes of the men and women who created or sent them?

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A set of World War 1 service medals



Trench art – made from an artillery shell



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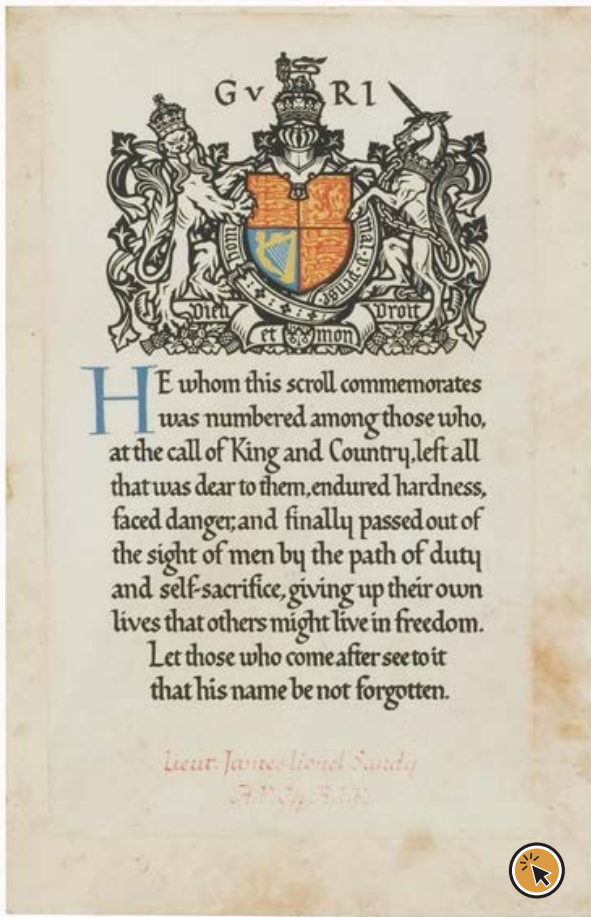
A memorial plaque presented by a local community



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The 'Dead Man's Penny' — sent to the family of men who died during the war





The scroll that was sent with the memorial plaque



Souvenir plate



A donkey's hoof turned into a paperweight



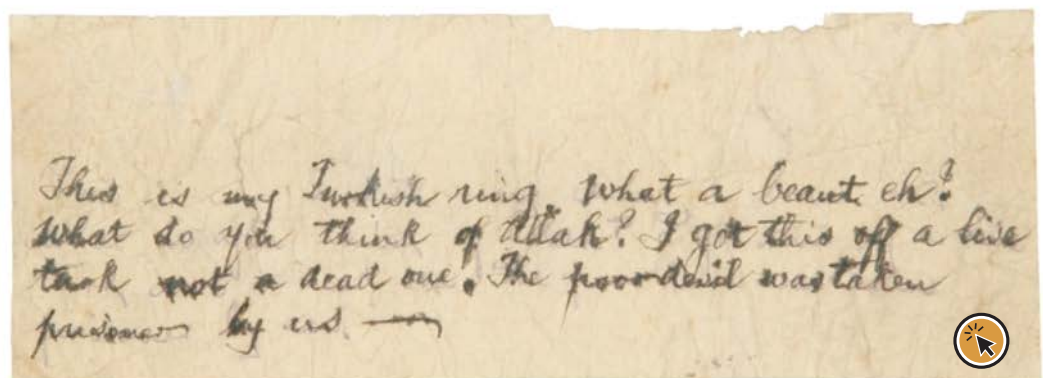
A medallion worn by mothers who had a son who enlisted — with a bar for each son



A ring taken from a Turkish prisoner



Silk souvenir of Egypt sent back by a soldier to his family



Some commemorative activities



Here are 10 practical commemorative ideas. You will be able to find far more when you start looking and thinking about it.

- 1 Attend a local Anzac Day ceremony as an individual or as a class.
- 2 Create a corridor display of people from your school or local community whom you have researched.
- 3 Hold a commemorative ceremony in your school, focusing on the local connections.
- 4 Create a walking tour of what your community tells you about its war connections.
- 5 Design and produce a memorial plaque about a local home or business that has a war connection, and that can be offered to these homes and businesses for display.
- 6 Create an Anzac memorial garden.
- 7 Research local people and create a book of your results. Present it to the school library, the local library and the local historical society.
- 8 Create a short play that features a local story, and present it to younger students or a school assembly.
- 9 Lay a flower on the grave of returned men who died after the war.
- 10 You could also critically analyse Anzac Day as a representation of history. For a method of doing this see http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-attachments/Gallipoli_Anzacs_Unit7_0.pdf

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Here are some useful sources for more information about the war and Australia's involvement in it, and about ways that young people can be involved in commemoration of it.

History of Australian involvement

See the DVA classroom kits *Gallipoli and the Anzacs*, *Australians on the Western Front* and *Australian Women in War*. They should all be in your library. These and other classroom resources can also be accessed online from <http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au>

See also:

- the Anzac site <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au>
- the Western Front site <http://www.westernfront.gov.au>
- Australian History Mysteries site <http://www.australianhistorymysteries.info/casestudies/world-war-1/>

Ceremonies and traditions

There are several sites that provide suggestions for a formal Anzac Day ceremony.

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/anzacservices/ADcommemservice/overview.html>

<http://www.shrine.org.au/Shrine/Files/b6/b608e51d-39a5-4356-9d99-0e9ecfc45a19.pdf>

<https://independentaustralia.net/australia/australia-display/2013-anzac-day-school-ceremony,5256>



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FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Contact your **local library** and your **local historical society** as excellent sources of local information.