**SOME KEY DATES 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 5 December</td>
<td>Newsletter Number 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 8 December</td>
<td>7pm School Association Meeting – All Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9 December</td>
<td>2014 Orientation Evening 6:30pm-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 11 December</td>
<td>Grade 10 Leavers Dinner – Arrival time 6:30pm for 7pm start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 16 December</td>
<td>Achievement Afternoon 1:25pm-2:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 18 December</td>
<td>Grade 10 Farewell Assembly 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 18 December</td>
<td>Last day for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 18 December</td>
<td>Newsletter Number 14 NOT POSTED – SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS OR EMAILED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full year school calendar is available on the school website: [www.rosebay.tased.edu.au](http://www.rosebay.tased.edu.au)

**2015 TERM DATES**

**Term 1**
Wednesday 4 February – Thursday 2 April

**Easter Break** - Friday 3 April – Tuesday 7 April

**Term 2**
Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July

**Term 3**
Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

**Term 4**
Monday 12 October – Thursday 17 December

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

As you may be aware the Department of Education is required to make savings given the current budget situation. The impact on achieving these savings is the loss of 2 full time teachers for 2015. The school is currently modifying the program for next year in order to achieve the required staffing reduction. As a summary we will be reducing the number of Grade 8 classes for 2015 from 7 to 6, reducing the amount of music support we currently provide and increasing the teaching loads of senior staff. Please be assured that as a school we remain committed to ensuring your child or children have access to high quality teaching and learning programs and we look forward to working with you in 2015.

Last week we received some wonderful news regarding the Frank MacDonald Award. Jacoba Sayers in Grade 9 was one of 6 students to be awarded this most prestigious prize. Jacoba will travel to Europe next year to visit battlefields of World War I. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Jacoba in this outstanding achievement. Congratulations must also go to Ms Pattinson who assisted Jacoba with submitting her work.
It is with great pleasure that I am able to share some wonderful news regarding 2 of our staff members at Rose Bay High.

Sue Pattinson has been awarded the Simpson Prize and will attend the Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015. This is a fantastic achievement and will present Sue with an opportunity of a lifetime. Sue Tuffin has been awarded joint winner of the Tasmanian Library Technician of the Year award for 2014. This is another fantastic achievement. The award recognises the great work that Sue does behind the scenes in support of our library. Both Sue and Sue thoroughly deserve these awards and I am sure that you will join me in congratulating them on their outstanding achievements.

Last week we had a large number of students participate and act as marshals in the schools triathlon competition.

We had some great individual performances at the event. I have received a number of complimentary emails this week from other Principals regarding the helpfulness and high level of commitment that our student marshals displayed on the days. I would like to congratulate all of our participants and marshals who represented the school so well during the triathlon.

Jason Szczesniak
Principal

RBHS Primary School Connections Program

During Term 4 students from our local primary schools visited to experience life as a high school student. This involved small groups of students being “merged” into our normal lessons with specialist subject teachers and working side by side with our Grade 9 and 10 students.

Many students from Cambridge, Lindisfarne, Risdon Vale, Warrane and Lindisfarne North Primary Schools thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and were extremely busy! Some cooked culinary delights in the kitchen during Home Economics with Mrs Boxall, some belted out amazing tunes on musical instruments with Mr Munting and there was plenty of huffing and puffing in the gym during Physical Education lessons. Some students turned into mad-scientists with Mr Bradley and made a substance that can only be described as “weird gooey sticky stuff!” and there were students in Creative Writing “blogging” with other students all around the country thanks to Mrs Sansom-Gower.

The aims and benefits of the Connections Program are many. It aims to make the transition from primary to high school just that little bit easier for some and hopefully take away those worrying thoughts that some students experience when they first head off to high school. Strong connections will build positive working relationships with our network of primary schools and provide many opportunities that will be of benefit to all students.

Artist of the Month for October 2014

It gives me great pleasure to announce the recipient for this month’s award. It goes to the good, bad student, whom when she is good, she simply glows...as does her work. She is the queen of the lead pencil, shades of light and dark are her trade mark.
Her themes of sadness, pain and death are ever present in her work. Well done Reanna, with your persistence and continued effort that you give your work!

Artist of the Month for November 2014

This is always a hard decision to make as usually there are many contenders. For the month of November the vote goes to the consistently hard working Brianna Smith from Grade 10.

She strives to do her best in all work she attempts and willingly extends her work when she is asked.

Her drawing ability is particularly awesome.

Well done Brianna!

Tasmanian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge 2014

The Powercom Tasmanian Model Solar Challenge of the Australian International Model Solar Challenge 2014 was held at New Town High School on Saturday day November 8. On a bright sunny day 11 car teams from 5 schools revelled in the bright conditions in their round robin elimination rounds.

The Rose Bay High School team of Zane Farnum from Grade 8, took on the task of representing the school. The task was enormous. There were 9 other cars in the event all expertly prepared and very quick. The two cars representing Rose Bay competed well against all the cars managing to win 4 races.

Zane managed to win the award for ‘Best New Entry’ and he is to be congratulated. It is to be hoped the experience gained this year will help make us more competitive next year.

Airbrushing Program

The following students were extremely fortunate to work with leading Tasmanian Airbrushing Artist Robi the Glimar Man. Students explored the art of airbrushing creating an impressive group mural to be mounted in the A-block stairwell and their very own wearable pieces.


Sincere thanks, Robi for your generous support, skill and enthusiasm which enabled this amazing learning experience to take place.

Stocking Filler

For your child to be able to function efficiently in a Mathematics class it is essential they possess a calculator. Looked after, a good calculator will last them through their high school years and beyond. Please consider adding a calculator as a stocking filler this year if your child doesn’t have one. The school has a quantity of good scientific calculators (Casio fx-82’s) which are available for purchase through the office for $24 each. If you purchase a calculator through the school it can also be
engraved with your child’s name. If you have any queries regarding calculators please contact me at school.

Sue Hindley
Acting Head of Mathematics

Uniform Shop Casual Required
Due to unforeseen circumstances I am unable to run the uniform shop on two of the uniform sales days ie January 29th and 30th 2015 and I am seeking expressions of interest from anyone with the skills and interest to be in charge of uniform sales from 10am to 2pm on both of these dates. A financial reward is offered. Student volunteers and other volunteers will be attending on these days to assist. Please contact me to discuss further on 0409 396 047 or abbott15@bigpond.net.au.

Kind regards
Sonya Abbott
Volunteer Uniform Co-ordinator

HOST FAMILY NEEDED!
Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is looking for a volunteer host family for a 15 year old Danish girl who arrived on King Island in July 2014 and is currently attending King Island District High School.

She is a friendly, curious, funny and ambitious girl who likes listening to music, being with friends, reading and going for walks. Together with her family she would love to experience new activities and simply be part of her host family’s daily life. We are looking for a family able to host her from December 27th till 26th April, 2015.

If you can help, please phone Marg or Kerrie at the Student Exchange Office 1300 135 331. Thank you very much for your help.

Rescheduled Parent/Carer Meeting:
2016 Rose Bay High School Tour to England, France and Belgium

- We are pleased to announce that based on current figures, sufficient numbers have been reached to make the 2016 School Tour a viable event.
- A meeting for parents/carers who have paid a deposit will be held at the office of Andrew Jones Travel, 1st floor, 61 Salamanca Place at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 16th, 2014.
- Because this meeting’s purpose is to cover updated information about the itinerary and other pertinent issues and also provide you with an opportunity to ask questions, we would appreciate your child being represented by a parent/carer on this occasion. Due to the limited seating capacity of this venue, in this instance, we will not be requiring student participants to attend the meeting.
- To assist with the organisation of the event, please RSVP Suzanne Pattinson at suzanne.pattinson@education.tas.gov.au prior to Friday, December, 12th, 2014.
- Currently there is a limited number of places still available. The 2016 Rose Bay High School Tour is open to all students attending the School this year (grades 9 and 10 included) as well as students currently in grades 5 and 6 who will be enrolled at Rose Bay High in 2016. To secure a place on the tour or obtain further information, please contact Suzanne Pattinson: suzanne.pattinson@education.tas.gov.au
- Information about the School Tour is communicated via Rose Bay High School’s Newsletter and posted on the School’s website.
Youth Assist Party Safe Tips
Quick check ideas on how to stay safe & what to look out for when partying

FACT 1: Young people like to party! This includes going to concerts and festivals, house parties, going to the beach and sporting events, celebrating over summer in general with friends and family!

FACT 2: Things can and do go wrong at teenage parties and when young people are celebrating. This includes, binge drinking, drink driving, unprotected sex, sexual assault, fighting & injury, getting arrested and other much more serious and negative stuff which is just not cool on any level!

FACT 3: Statistics show that teenagers who are informed about safe partying are more likely to protect themselves and their friends.

General party safe tips
Think smart, plan and avoid dangerous situations – know where to get help if need be!
The Think Smart Plan: You don’t have to use alcohol and drugs to have a good time, it’s up to you don’t let others pressure you to drink! If you do drink, do so in moderation. Eat healthy food, and drink lots of water. Trust your judgement don’t let peer pressure sway you. Stay with friends and look after each other. Plan how to get home.

Avoid potentially violent and dangerous situations
Look after your friends; don’t go off with someone you have just met. Don’t get into verbal arguments and walk away from aggression if it happens!
This is just a few quick tips. To find out heaps more go to: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au and search for partying safely- tips for teenagers www.safeparty.com.au/ This is a great site for tips on safe partying and organising parties for both young people and parents.

For further assistance and information in relation to these topics please contact the Youth worker at Youth Assist on (03) 6282 -0300. Or contact Clarence council youth services on (03) 62 47-1230

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY DATES 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday – Friday,</strong></td>
<td><strong>Book sales</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 – 30 January</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday – Friday,</strong></td>
<td><strong>Uniform Sales</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 – 30 January</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 3 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Start Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 7 and new students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9am – 12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 4 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>First day – all students</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEBA are also going to be entering a Under 12 Girls and Under 12 Boys team in the BHJ (Basketball Hobart Juniors) in Season 2015. This will be an extra game of basketball separate to our home roster.

TRY OUTS for the BHJ U12 teams will be at the Dodges Ferry Community Recreation Centre on Wednesday 3 December & Wednesday 10 December from 4pm Sharp till 5pm. Girls and Boys aged 9-11 welcome to come along.

Please bring a ball (if possible) and water.

For more information please contact us: dodgesferryseba@gmail.com
Anzac Day Schools’ Awards
Tasmania Secondary Winner:
Rose Bay High School
9-1 and 9-2 History

Students completed a scrapbook of a family member, community member or friend who had served in any conflicts or peacekeeping operations during the past 100 years which showed a high level of community and ex-service involvement. The students spoke to the members of the local RSL and sourced their research from the RSL commemorative boards and memorials.

With support from the Anglesea Barracks Military Museum and the Australian War Memorial, members of the school community converted a classroom into a museum with a very impressive display of artefacts and a timeline showing significant events in Australia’s wartime history.

Further evidence of veteran and community involvement included inviting the Tasmanian C Squadron, 3rd Light Horse Regiment re-enactment group to participate in a wreath laying ceremony, unveiling of commemorative memorials and release of peace doves at the school’s new memorial garden following the assembly.

A Gallipoli rose, rosemary and heath have been planted in the memorial garden. The school has sourced and is awaiting clearance from the quarantine authorities for Lone Pine seedlings that will be planted and cared for by the students as an ongoing project.

A thoughtful inclusion in the entry was a box of cards in the form of ‘peace doves’ on which students recorded the research they had undertaken, what they learned both about themselves as part of the process and the veterans they researched.

The judges were impressed by the wide variety of activities undertaken and the very high level of student involvement.
**Remembrance Day 2014**

_The Great War was the crucible in which our nation's identity was forged._

Prime Minister Tony Abbott

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On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, students and staff paused to reflect on the significance of Remembrance Day in the inaugural year of the centenary of World War 1. A commemorative service, competently conducted by grades 9 and 10 students, included an address and featured poetry readings. Tributes were read honoring Captain Keith Heritage and Corporal Cameron Baird VC. Captain Heritage from Longford, Tasmania is believed to be the first person to have signed up for the _Australian Imperial Force_ in World War 1. Tasmanian, Corporal Cameron Baird, who died in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan on 22 June 2013, is the 100th recipient of the Victoria Cross.
The Ode, one minute’s silence and response; traditional components of Remembrance Day services, were respectfully observed and interspersed The Last Post and The Rouse hauntingly played by Mr Dean on the cornet. As part of the ceremony, students then placed wreaths on the two memorial stones located in the School’s commemorative garden. The floral tributes acknowledged the sacrifices made by Corporal Cameron Baird VC and all those who served Australia in the defence and peacekeeping forces in the last 100 years. The hoisting of the flags marked the conclusion of the service.

At Anzac Park, Lindisfarne (the Cenotaph), Samuel Apted and Ruby Wyker, accompanied by Ms Thureau, participated in the Lindisfarne RSL’s Community Remembrance Day Commemoration service. At this event, the student representatives laid wreaths on behalf of the Rose Bay High School community.

Lest we forget
Suzanne Pattinson

Jacoba Sayers wins the 2014/15 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize

But our challenge and responsibility is to make this history live for a new generation of Australians, whether Australian by birth or by choice. Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial

Once more, the school community was thrilled to be given the news of a successful student in the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize competition. As a consequence of her exceptional performance, Jacoba Sayers has earned herself a position on the 2015 tour which will visit Belgium and France. This is a brilliant achievement and congratulations are extended to Jacoba on her outstanding success.

The Memorial Prize recognises the legacy of World War I veteran, Frank MacDonald MM. Born in Ulverstone, Tasmania in 1896, during his career in the Australian Imperial Force, Frank MacDonald MM was responsible for repairing signal lines between battalion headquarters and trenches. For his eminent services he received the Military Medal for working valiantly under heavy fire. Frank MacDonald MM also served in World War 2 and received the Legion of Honour in 1998. At the age of 107, he died on August 23rd, 2003. As well as being Tasmania’s last World War I veteran, Frank MacDonald MM was also the last surviving member of the only all Tasmanian Battalion raised in World War I; the 40th Infantry Battalion, AIF.
The Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize is open to all Tasmanian year 9 students and attracts hundreds of entries from state and independent schools and also includes home-schooled students. As in previous years, students were able to select from two topics and could either respond to the topic in an essay format or an audio-visual/ICT presentation.

In her essay, Jacoba chose to focus on the question: Every year since 1916, Australians have commemorated the first day of the landings at Gallipoli - 25th April. How relevant is the national significance of ANZAC Day nearly 100 years on? Why was this event considered so important and so powerful that it has endured beyond the lifetime of anyone who was there at the time?

Jacoba’s entry was inspired by the deeds of her great-great-great uncle, William Percy Hynes from Summer Hill who was a driver in the AIF during World War One, as well as her aunt’s great-great grandfather, Alfred “Gus” Percival Brown. “Gus”, from Glenorchy, served on the Western Front in the 40th Australian Infantry Battalion, along with Frank MacDonald MM.

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Jacoba’s essay robustly addressed the topic and contained within it a depth of historically accurate information derived from a range of primary and secondary sources. Showing a compassionate consciousness of the period, in her inquiry, Jacoba scrutinized the context and specific deeds and contributions of soldiers fighting in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. Her investigation was well-structured and her ideas were communicated in a creative, lyrical and engaging manner. Skilfully, throughout her essay, she used the analogy of a tree to explain why the landings at Gallipoli, underpinning ANZAC Day, have retained their importance and relevance to Australians over the past century. In her discourse, Jacoba mused that while, over an extended passage of time, events can become distorted and people mythicised, “Time and the attitudes of perception compress the realities of the Great War into a single totem, ANZAC, the hero and legend we remember and commemorate.”

As Jacoba so expertly concluded: “ANZAC Day may suffer criticism because the legend we memorialise on this day disguises and minimises the sting of our failure on the Gallipoli Peninsula. But we also use it to congratulate ourselves on ‘our ANZACs’ and to recognise our national identity. Perhaps, as the Centenary of the Gallipoli landings approaches, we should reach for our roots and above all else, ensure the individual ANZACs with all their faults and virtues, are prominent in our commemorations. In doing this, we will undoubtedly find part of ourselves. I was always told that our family tree was devoid of ANZACs, yet when I cared to search, I found several relatives, ANZACs all. In conversation with a family friend, the words, “It makes you feel pride, doesn’t it?” were uttered. This is true. But the pride we possess should encompass all of the ANZACs, for the glory of a tree’s foliage would not exist save it were for the strength of its seed.” (See Jacoba’s full essay on the school website.)

Flooded by entries from across Tasmania, the judges were captivated by Jacoba’s high calibre entry and based on the excellence of her work, she was chosen as one of the twelve finalists to proceed through to the interview process. No doubt her marked commitment and sincere interest, together with her quiet confidence and delightful personal skills, made a positive impression on the judging panel members, culminating in her selection as a winner of the 2014/15 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize.

Jacoba’s success was officially announced at Ogilvie High School on Thursday 13 November, at a ceremony attended by the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MHA. The Minister
formally congratulated this year’s six recipients who will represent their respective schools and their state through structured tours visiting landmarks of wartime significance in France and Belgium.

At this ceremony, Jasmine Brennan, 2013/14 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize recipient was part of the formal procedures. Jasmine gave a riveting speech about the extraordinary overseas experiences afforded to her by the award.

“As part of the study tour, the group were required to undertake the study of an Australian soldier. We then delivered a presentation at their grave, talking about their life and experiences in the War. This was such an emotional part of the trip, as we all felt a strong connection to our chosen soldier. I studied my great, great uncle Arthur Sampson. Before undertaking this research nobody in my family had any knowledge of Arthur, but now we know so much. Each member of my family have contributed research and developed a strong connection to him, almost 100 years after his death on the Western Front. This was apparent in each group member’s pilgrimage; they all spoke of the connection felt to their soldier, and the pride they feel towards their soldier.” Jasmine Brennan.

In past years, Rose Bay High School students have gained considerable success in competitions based on historical inquiries and this is ongoing. Despite Jacoba being the fifth Rose Bay High School student to win an overseas trip in as many years, the school community was not blasé about her accomplishment. The thrill and excitement engendered by the news of Jacoba’s triumph was merely intensified by the achievements of her predecessors. Past successful candidates of our Hall of History Fame include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prize or Award</th>
<th>Teacher Comments</th>
<th>Teacher Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jesse Hawtree</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize recipient</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jacob Walker</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Tasmanian runner up for the Simpson Prize</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Rebecca Pilgrim</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize Finalist</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Joseph Short</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize recipient</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Amy Graham</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize Finalist</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Sophia Bellears</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Certificate of Commendation - National History Challenge</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Jasmine Brennan</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize recipient</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Ben James</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Simpson Prize recipient</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Georgia Stone</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Certificate of High Commendation - Simpson Prize</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 9-1 and 9-2 History classes</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Tasmanian Secondary Schools - Department of Veterans Affairs Anzac Bay School’s Award</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Jacoba Sayers</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize recipient</td>
<td>S. Pattinson</td>
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</table>

The school wishes to commend the efforts of all students who participated in this year’s competition and encourage our future grade nines to capitalize on their skills and extend themselves by responding to the challenges to be presented by the 2015 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. In particular, we need to acknowledge the meritorious efforts of Sarah Pilgrim and Sophia Bellears who, along with Jacoba, were selected as Rose Bay High School’s three finalists. We would strongly encourage, these individuals, and our current grades 8 and 9 students, to seize this opportunity and also enter the Simpson Prize competition next year. Our best wishes are extended to Jasmine Brennan and Sarah Pilgrim who seized the challenge and entered the 2014 Simpson Prize. We eagerly await the results of this competition.
It would be remiss not to sincerely thank Jasmine Brennan who provided Jacoba and this year's other entrants with invaluable advice, support and encouragement. Similarly, we extend our appreciation to the organisers and sponsors of the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. Their efforts and generosity allow Tasmanian year 9 students to engage in an authentic and unique historical inquiry and irrespective of the outcome, provide all entrants with an educationally valuable experience.

Indisputably, like those who have achieved the equivalent success, Jacoba’s prize promises to offer her unforgettable and inevitably transformative experiences and it is with significant interest and anticipation we follow her journey and preparations. We predict, with utmost confidence, Jacoba will prove herself to be an exceptional ambassador for the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize, Tasmania and Rose Bay High School.

Suzanne Pattinson

http://www.simpsonprize.org/
The history of an event always gains something with the passing of time. Beginning as a record of a moment or action, as years pass, it is embellished and increasing relevance is given to it. Eventually, it is more than truth, even legend, and aspects are forgotten. This is analogous to the development of a tree. If we observe the growth of the Anzac legend from its inception at the Gallipoli Landing, we can see how it has become so significant to our nation. …

Where does this tree begin? As a seed; of actions and events happening in the moment. Perhaps the seed of World War One was Britain declaring war against Germany on August 4th, 1914 or Australians pledging "our last man and our last shilling" to the Empire, signing Attestation forms below the words, "So help me, God." Such events may have been fertilised by the ambitious, young politician, Winston Churchill convincing those in charge that invading the Ottoman Empire and capturing Constantinople would win them the war. …

Confusion took hold and bodies of ANZACs littered the razor backed hills. Once casualty numbers, over 215,000, were certified, mourning settled like a shadow in the countries of the fallen and the romantic glow of war faded. As the darkness passed from those indirectly affected, it continued to hover over the participants and witnesses to the spectre of war.

Ivor Margetts, a lieutenant in the 12th Battalion was among the first Australians to land at Anzac Cove. Margetts wrote in his diary, "Landed 0420…Captain Lalor killed. Pat killed on left flank near me. Slept with Col. Smith on beach till 4 am. Rained." His pithy statements underscore the unimaginable danger, fear and exhaustion of the landings. In a later conflict on the Western Front Alfred "Gus" Percival Brown, who served in the 40th Australian Infantry Battalion, along with Frank MacDonald, kept a diary of his own harrowing experiences. "It is hell on earth here…We are all too tired to sleep. I think it will take weeks to get over this…Nerves gone." We can never know if the shadow of the war entirely left "Gus", my aunt’s great-great grandfather. It left Margetts far too quickly, when he was killed at Pozieres in 1916. Such men are gone now. Their histories are the roots holding the tree in place.

Between the mirrored image of root and branch stands the trunk. Time and the attitudes of perception compress the realities of the Great War into a single totem, ANZAC, the hero and legend we remember and commemorate. …

There is also the versatility of the ANZACs, a flexibility recognised in the branches of the tree, which are more easily altered by the dogmas and ideals of an era than the roots which are hidden. In 1915, Australians were captivated by Mr Ellis Ashmead Bartlett’s accounts of Australian soldiers at Gallipoli “…whose blood was up…rushed northwards and eastwards, searching for fresh enemies to bayonet." Then, during World War Two, they were "muscular, grim-faced veterans…these men had the cool, quiet confidence of seasoned soldiers." …

The heroic legends and traditions we celebrate on ANZAC Day are the leaves of the tree. And just as a tree’s leaves overshadow its roots, so too does the legend of ANZAC overshadow the outcome of the Gallipoli campaign. Possibly we “just see and enjoy the beauty” because most people do not have time or desire to search for the true series of events. …

Perhaps, as the Centenary of the Gallipoli landings approaches, we should reach for our roots and above all else, ensure the individual ANZACs with all their faults and virtues, are prominent in our commemorations. In doing this, we will undoubtedly find part of ourselves. …

In conversation with a family friend, the words, “It makes you feel pride, doesn’t it?” were uttered. This is true. But the pride we possess should encompass all of the ANZACs, for the glory of a tree’s foliage would not exist save it were for the strength of its seed.

By Jacoba Sayers

Ivor Margetts wrote in his diary, "So help me, God."