

ANZAC

Lest we forget

This day marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Like hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens, who gather at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, we have come here to commemorate one of the most significant events in our National calendar. Time dims the memory of ordinary events, but not great events. In a nation's history, great events - whether in peace or war - live in our memories regardless of time. They are deemed great not necessarily for what they achieved, nor for whether they were victories or successes. Rather, great events are distinguished by the quality of the human endeavour they called upon, by the examples they create for ordinary men and women, and by the legends they inspire. Anzac day is not a day for honouring war but a day for honouring the people who have given their lives to protect ours. It is not just the brave men and women who fought at Gallipoli nor is it the men and women who served in the first world war but this day is for us to remember and give thanks to all those men and women who have put their lives and still do at risk in order to keep our freedom. The Anzac spirit runs through today's Australians. We see it, of course, in our forces, but we also see it, every day in our communities.

I have often thought that perhaps the term 'ANZAC' has been misunderstood. It is not a place, nor is it a campaign or a war. It is not a ceremony or a parade either. The term ANZAC comes from words Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. ANZAC has transcended the physical meaning to become a spirit – an inspiration that embodies the qualities of courage, discipline, sacrifice and self-reliance. We pause today to acknowledge all current and former members of our defence forces the brave men and women who represent our country on a daily basis. No Australian is left untouched when a member of our defence force is killed in action. So this day above all days, we all come together to show our respects for the men and women who has battled in the past and present to give us our freedom and for that we are internally grateful

By Cahles.Lewis