

ANZAC DAY 2012

Rossmoyne Senior High school will hold a School's Anzac Ceremony on Friday 27th April at 10am in the Gym.

Posters from the Department of Veterans Affairs are on the Society & Environment notice boards. Also have a look at the "Australians at War" display in the library until 4th April.

This year the posters mark the 70th anniversary of two battles from the Second World War: the **bombing of Darwin** and the campaign in **Kokoda**, Papua New Guinea.



The bombing of Darwin poster features the scene of the first Japanese air raid on 19 February 1942. It shows several vessels, loaded with ammunition, having been hit and set on fire in the harbour.

The poster commemorating the Kokoda Campaign shows stretcher bearers offering drinking water to Private Baldwin of the 2/33rd Battalion. The image highlights the assistance local people gave in the care and evacuation of Australian casualties.

History

The Anzac tradition—the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship that are still relevant today—was established on 25 April 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

It was the start of a campaign that lasted eight months and resulted in some 25,000 Australian casualties, including 8,700 who were killed or died of wounds or disease.

The men who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula created a legend, adding the word 'Anzac' to our vocabulary and creating the notion of the Anzac spirit.

In 1916, the first anniversary of the landing was observed in Australia, New Zealand and England and by troops in Egypt. That year, 25 April was officially named 'Anzac Day' by the Acting Prime Minister, George Pearce.

By the 1920s, Anzac Day ceremonies were held throughout Australia. All States had designated Anzac Day as a public holiday. In the 1940s, Second World War veterans joined parades around the country. In the ensuing decades, returned servicemen and women from the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Indonesia, Vietnam and Iraq, veterans from allied countries and peacekeepers joined the parades.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the number of people attending the ceremonies fell as Australians questioned the relevance of Anzac Day. However, in the 1990s there was a resurgence of interest in Anzac Day, with attendances, particularly by young people,

increasing across Australia and with many making the pilgrimage to the Gallipoli Peninsula to attend the Dawn Service.

The Start of the War

World War I began on July 28, 1914, when **Austria-Hungary** declared war on **Serbia**. This seemingly small conflict between two countries spread rapidly: soon, Germany, Russia, Great Britain, and France were all drawn into the war, largely because they were involved in **treaties** that obligated them to defend certain other nations. Western and eastern **fronts** quickly opened along the borders of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The first month of combat consisted of bold attacks and rapid troop movements on both fronts. In the west, Germany attacked first **Belgium** and then **France**. In the east, **Russia** attacked both Germany and Austria-Hungary. In the south, Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia. Following the **Battle of the Marne** (September 5–9, 1914), the Western Front became entrenched in central France and remained that way for the rest of the war. The fronts in the east also gradually locked into place.

The Ottoman Empire

Late in 1914, the **Ottoman Empire** was brought into the fray as well, after Germany tricked Russia into thinking that Turkey had attacked it. As a result, much of 1915 was dominated by Allied actions against the Ottomans in the Mediterranean. First, Britain and France launched a failed attack on the **Dardanelles**. This campaign was followed by the British invasion of the **Gallipoli Peninsula**. Britain also launched a separate campaign against the Turks in **Mesopotamia**. Although the British had some successes in Mesopotamia, the Gallipoli campaign and the attacks on the Dardanelles resulted in British defeats.

Trench Warfare

The middle part of the war, 1916 and 1917, was dominated by continued **trench warfare** in both the east and the west. Soldiers fought from dug-in positions, striking at each other with **machine guns**, **heavy artillery**, and **chemical weapons**. Though soldiers died by the millions in brutal conditions, neither side had any substantive success or gained any advantage.

The United States' Entrance and Russia's Exit

Despite the stalemate on both fronts in Europe, two important developments in the war occurred in 1917. In early April, the **United States**, angered by attacks upon its ships in the Atlantic, declared war on Germany. Then, in November, the **Bolshevik Revolution** prompted Russia to pull out of the war.

The End of the War and Armistice

Although both sides launched **renewed offensives** in 1918 in an all-or-nothing effort to win the war, both efforts failed. The fighting between exhausted, demoralised troops continued to plod along until the Germans lost a number of individual battles and very gradually began to fall back. A deadly outbreak of **influenza**, meanwhile, took heavy tolls on soldiers of both sides.

Eventually, the governments of both Germany and Austria-Hungary began to lose control as both countries experienced multiple mutinies from within their military structures. The war ended in the late summer of 1918, after the member countries of the Central Powers signed **armistice agreements** one by one. Germany was the last, signing its armistice on November 11, 1918. As a result of these agreements, Austria-Hungary was broken up into several smaller countries. Germany, under the **Treaty of Versailles**, was severely punished with hefty economic reparations, territorial losses, and strict limits on its rights to develop militarily.