



Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign

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About the Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign (GCPC)

GCPC was formed in mid February 2014 as a result of a meeting between the Marrickville Peace Group, Marrickville Residents for Reconciliation (now part of ANTaR Inner West), Pax Christi and the Marrickville Greens.

Anzac Centenary Program

The incentive for the coalition's formation was the impending Anzac centenary.

The official website of the centenary describes the commemorative program from 2014 to 2018 as offering 'all Australians the opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of all those who have worn our nation's uniform, including the more than 102,000 who have made the supreme sacrifice'.

In addition, it asserts that World War I, especially the Gallipoli campaign, helped to define us as a people and as a nation and it encourages 'all Australians to reflect upon and learn more about Australia's military history, its costs and its impacts on our nation'.

Shared Concerns

All parties within GCPC share the view that the **Anzac legend, especially in more recent times, has served to distort genuine commemoration, historical inquiry and public discourse on the causes of war and its devastating impacts and consequences.**

In our opinion, official government claims that World War I helped define us as a people and as a nation, is evidence of this, as is the incongruity between promoting such a historical myth and the goal of learning more about our military history and its impacts during the centenary commemorations.

For more information about GCPC, go to its website www.gpc2015.org.au and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gallipolipeace>

Public Forum and GCPC Launch

The Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign held a public forum on 5th August at the University of Sydney on the topic 'Anzac – why does it last?'

John Butcher (Convenor, GCPC) spoke briefly at the start of the forum about GCPC's origins and objectives. This was followed by Dr Wendy Lambourne (Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies - CPACS) who summarised the teaching and work carried out by CPACS.

The main speaker, Prof Joan Beaumont, author of the acclaimed *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*, was introduced by A/Prof Mark McKenna.

The forum marked the official launch of the Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign.

The text of Joan Beaumont's address and an audio recording of Mark McKenna's introductory remarks can be

accessed via:

<http://www.gpc2015.org.au/campaign-news-nsw/>

Joan Beaumont was awarded the 2014 NSW Premier's Australian History Prize for her book *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*. See the video of Robert Manne's interview with Joan Beaumont at Bendigo Writers' Festival in August this year:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/id-eas-and-society/our-nations-war>

Basic Questions

One of the primary goals of GCPC is to raise such questions as What were the origins of WW1 and the Gallipoli Campaign? Ian Buckley tackles such questions in a series of essays on the causes and costs of Australia's foreign wars. See, for example, his 'Chapter 4: World War One - and the Gallipoli Campaign':

<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/article/australiaswars4.htm>

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Public Consultation on Peace & Reconciliation Park Proposal

On 7th October, Marrickville Council's Community & Corporate Services Committee endorsed both the dual naming of Richardsons Lookout and its launch as a Peace & Reconciliation Park, subject to community consultation, during Council's Gallipoli Centenary Program in April 2015.

In response to this recent decision and the current community consultation, GCPC are circulating a petition in support of the proposed Peace & Reconciliation Park.

Consider signing GCPC's petition on co-naming Richardsons Lookout a Peace & Reconciliation Park and having it launched during Council's Gallipoli Centenary Commemorative program in April 2015:
<http://www.gcpc2015.org.au/new-peace-reconciliation-park-petition/>

Council has released its community consultation schedule and has also launched an online survey on the future of the parklands along the Cooks River, including Richardsons Lookout.

The consultation schedule and online survey can be accessed via:
<http://yoursaymarrickville.com.au/home1>

GCPC Newsletter

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High School History Project

The Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign has set itself the task of informing history teachers about a new set of lesson plans entitled 'The Enduring Effects of War'.

These lesson plans on war are designed for middle secondary students and are compatible with the Australian History Curriculum.

'The Enduring Effects of War' was created through a partnership between the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW), its project partner Act for Peace and the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.

The development of the lesson plans was motivated by a concern about the simplistic and sometimes misleading narratives about war prevalent within society.

Given these circumstances, MAPW wanted to do something to encourage young people to gain a better understanding and apprec-

iation of the real and enduring impacts of war. GCPC is fully supportive of these educational objectives.

GCPC is also conducting a survey of 101 high schools in Sydney about the potential use of this resource by history teachers.

The lesson plans can be downloaded from here:
<https://www.mapw.org.au/download/ending-effects-war-series-lesson-plans-war-middle-secondary-students>

Veterans facing homelessness epidemic

It is feared Australian war veterans are in the grip of an epidemic of homelessness.

According to a recent news report, a "new service established in the Northern Beaches of Sydney is over-subscribed even before it's been advertised. All of the participants have a mental illness as a result of their service and some are as young as 25."

Listen to Ashley Hall's disturbing interview with Geoff Evans, the Younger Veterans' Advisor with RSL LifeCare:

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2014/s4121676.htm>

Future Events

12/11/14 - Thomas Keneally will discuss his new book *Australians: Flappers to Vietnam*. When: Wed 12th Nov, 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Where: Ashfield Library, Level 6, 260 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield 2131, 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Free event. Contact: (02) 9716 1800.

14/11/14 - Gleebooks Event - Sydney launch of Honest History. Peter Stanley (President of Honest History) will talk with Thomas Keneally about the writing and use of Australian history, the gathering of evidence and the difference between myth and history, especially with respect to the Anzac Centenary. When: 6pm for 6.30pm, Fri 14th November. Where: Upstairs at 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Entry: \$10/\$7; Gleeclub members free. Bookings: (02) 9660 2333.

27/11/14 - Abbott's War in Iraq - Division at home: Developing a progressive response. Speakers: Noah Bassil (Macquarie Uni), Richard Broinowski (former Australian Ambassador), Stephen Blanks (NSW Council of Civil Liberties) & Rita Almohty (Arab Council Australia). When: 6.00pm for 6.30pm, Thurs 27th November. Where: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, Mitchell Theatre, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. Entry: \$5. Contact: Peter 0418 312 301.

Additional events can be found on GCPC's *Events Calendar*:
<http://www.gcpc2015.org.au/events/>