



CENTENARY *of* ANZAC

Service at Home & Abroad

24 APRIL – 21 MAY • ROSNY BARN • CLARENCE ARTS & EVENTS



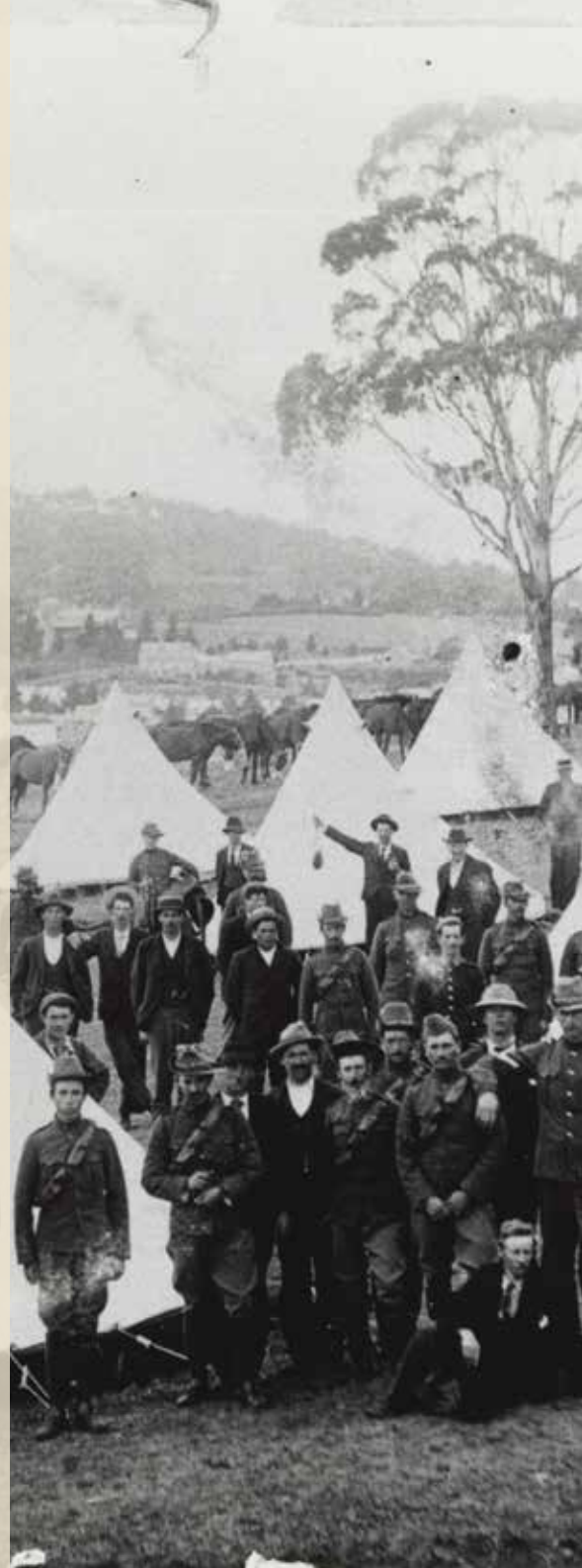
INTRODUCTION

The assassination in June 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, broke the very fragile balance of power in Europe; plunging the world into the Great War, the 'War to end all Wars'. With the benefit of hindsight, we now know this disastrous conflict as the First World War.

In Australia the outbreak of war was greeted with great enthusiasm. Britain and Germany went to war on 4 August 1914; Australian Prime Minister Joseph Cook immediately pledged full support for Great Britain. For Australia, as for many nations, the First World War remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which over 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

Industrialisation and mass production of the means of war produced results that few had foreseen and which scarred an entire generation. For Australia, however, this conflict produced another lasting result – the birth of a national identity, forged through the horrors of war and enshrined in the spirit of the Anzacs.

Background: Troops at Claremont ca 1916 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)



ENLISTMENT AND TRAINING

Across the municipalities of Clarence and Richmond, enlistment figures suggest that some 300 men signed up with the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF), roughly a third of the men of fighting age. Of that number, over 60 were killed in action or died of wounds or disease. Many of these men have no known burial place; they are commemorated in memorials and cenotaphs across Clarence. Most of the men from Clarence were in their twenties, but some were as young as 17.

Patriotic events soon became common, with a focus on fundraising and encouraging enlistment. In January 1916, following one such event, eighteen men from Bellerive enlisted on the same day, calling themselves the 'Black Eighteen'. These men would take part in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, yet amazingly all survived.

Below: Bellerive's 'Black 18' (Bellerive Historical Society)

Inset top: Claremont Army Camp ca 1915 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Inset below: Members of the 3rd Light Horse mustered at Claremont (Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office)



EMBARKATION

The first contingent of Tasmanian troops sailed from Hobart in October 1914. Plans for their embarkation were shrouded in secrecy until the last moment, generating huge public interest. Then, early in the morning of 20 October, 1100 soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force arrived by train from the Brighton Army Camp onto Hobart's Ocean Pier.

Once the soldiers and horses were safely aboard the Geelong, barriers were removed and the waiting crowd 'surged towards the vessel, mounted the ramp and swarmed the railings'. According to the Mercury:

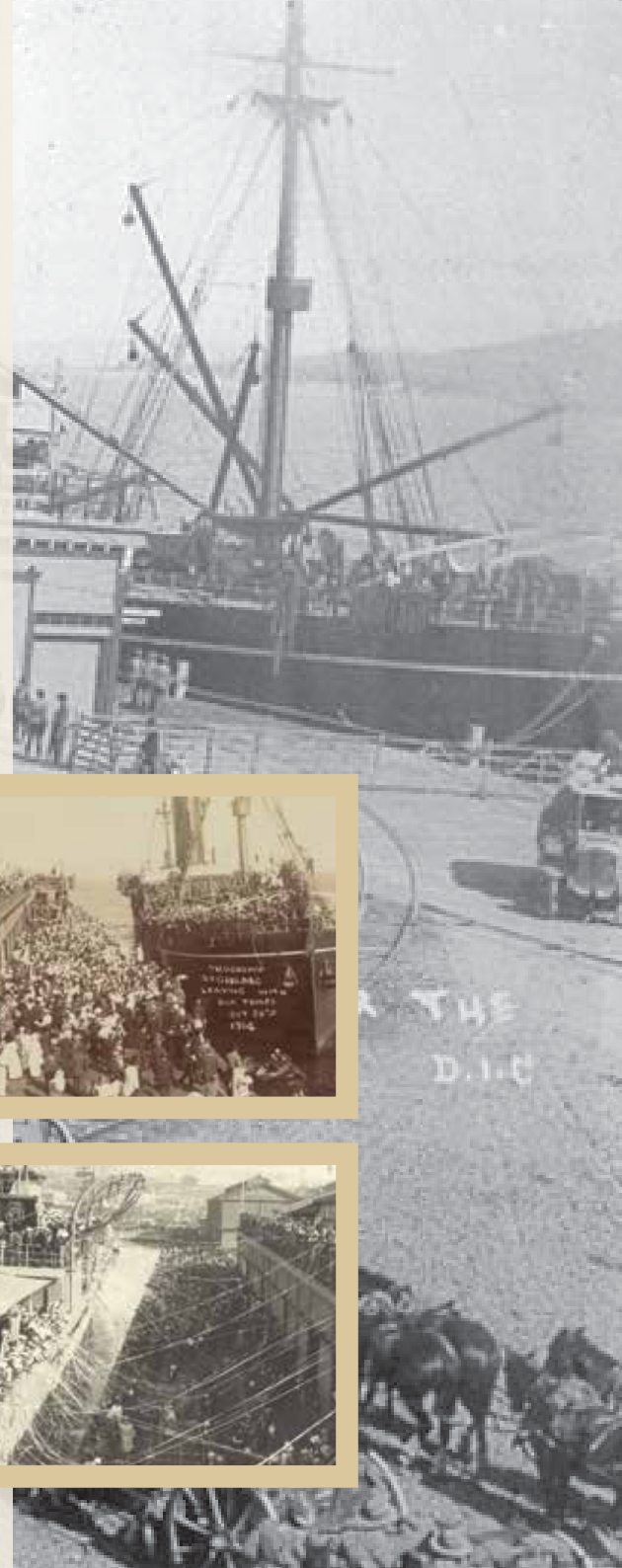
"It was a thrilling scene as the Geelong, alive with khaki-clad figures, backed slowly out from the wharf, to the stirring strains of the band, cheers and farewell"

Amongst the crowd on that October morning was Mrs Mabel Miller of Bellerive, mother of Private Alexander Campbell, one of the first men in Clarence to enlist. Like many mothers in the crowd on the pier, Mrs Miller would never see her son again.

Background: Loading troops and equipment on board the *Katuna*, October 1914 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Inset top: Farewelling troops on the Geelong, 20 October 1914 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Inset below: Departure of troops from Hobart, 20 October 1914 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)



NURSES

As well as the soldiers, horses and equipment embarking on the Geelong, a contingent of 25 nurses set sail from Hobart including Sister Alice Gordon King from Lindisfarne. After helping to establish hospitals in Egypt, Sister King worked on hospital ships in Mediterranean waters and later had charge of the theatre ward of the 3rd Australian General Hospital in France. As part of the operating team in the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station in Belgium, she worked extremely long hours treating heavy casualties from engagements near Passchendaele.

Sisters from the Australian Army Nursing Service often endured appalling conditions to deliver care to wounded soldiers. Matron Jean Miles Walker served throughout the war in Egypt, England, France and on hospital ships. She was in charge of the 3rd Australian General Hospital in Abbeville in March-April 1918, where with only 24 nurses she managed the care of some 1800 patients. After surviving so much and helping so many, she died from influenza in October 1918. Six years later, the Memorial Home for Returned Nurses, built on the western slopes of Natone Hill, would be dedicated to the memory of Matron Walker and her colleagues Sister Janet Radcliffe and Sister Isabel Edwards.

Background top: *Matron Jean Miles Walker (Australian War Memorial)*

Background top: *Nurses contingent in welcome home parade, Hobart, 1919 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)*

Inset: *Sister Alice Gordon King and Sister Janet Radcliffe on the deck of the Geelong, November 1914 (Australian War Memorial)*



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THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

After months of training in Egypt, ANZAC troops saw their first major action during the Allied invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915. The Allies hoped to seize control of the strategic Dardanelles Strait and open the way for their naval forces to attack Constantinople (Istanbul), the capital of Turkey and the Ottoman Empire.

The Anzacs landed at what became known as Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915 and despite heavy fire from Turkish positions on the high ground, managed to establish a tenuous foothold on the steep slopes above the beach. By 3am on the 26 April more than 1700 casualties had been evacuated. During the early days of the campaign, the Allies tried to break through Turkish lines, while the Turks tried to drive the allied troops off the peninsula. Attempts on both sides ended in failure and the ensuing stalemate continued for the remainder of 1915.

The campaign was a heroic but costly failure and by December plans were drawn up to evacuate the entire force from Gallipoli. On 19 and 20 December, the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla was completed with the last British troops leaving Cape Helles by 8 January 1916. The entire operation evacuated 142,000 men with negligible casualties. Australian casualties for the Gallipoli campaign amounted to 2,111, comprising of 1007 officers and 25,104 other ranks. Of these, 362 officers and 7,779 men were killed in action, died of wounds or succumbed to disease. Nine Victoria Crosses were awarded to soldiers in Australian units.

While the campaign is considered a military failure, Gallipoli became a household name in Australia and with it the ANZAC tradition was created. Gallipoli became the common tie forged in adversity that bound the colonies and people of Australia into a nation.



Right top: Private Alexander Campbell of Bellerive, member of 12th Battalion A Company.

Alexander Campbell was killed during the beach landings of 25th April, 1915 (Eleanor Roddam Collection)

Right below: The final entry in Alexander Campbell's war diary, just prior to embarkation from Egypt for Gallipoli:

"Packing up, expect to leave soon, don't know where to" (Courtesy Eleanor Roddam)

Left background: Australian soldiers in a captured trench at Lone Pine, one of the few victories of the Gallipoli campaign. Of the roughly 4,600 Australian troops involved in the battle for Lone Pine, nearly half were killed or wounded (Australian War Memorial)

Left inset top: Red Cross donkeys in use during the Gallipoli campaign. 'Donks' were widely used to carry wounded men and medical supplies (State Library of Tasmania)

Left inset middle: Members of the 5th Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, go ashore as part of the Gallipoli Landing, 25th April 1915. Landing artillery took place once troops had made some progress towards Turkish positions (Australian War Memorial)

Left inset below: Australian burial parties burying dead Australian and Turkish soldiers at the Nek during a nine hour armistice for burying the dead (Australian War Memorial)



WESTERN FRONT

After Gallipoli the AIF was reorganised and expanded from two to five infantry divisions, all of which were progressively transferred to France from March 1916. When the AIF divisions arrived in France, the war on the Western Front had long been settled in a stalemate, with the opposing armies facing each other from trench systems that extended across Belgium and north-east France. Trying to break the stalemate, the Australians and other allied armies repeatedly attacked, preceded by massive artillery bombardments intended to cut barbed wire and destroy enemy defences. After these bombardments, waves of attacking infantry emerged from the trenches into no man's land and advanced towards enemy positions. The surviving Germans, protected by deep and heavily reinforced bunkers, were usually able to repel the attackers with machine-gun fire and artillery support from the rear. Hundreds often died for each yard of land gained.

In July 1916 Australian infantry were introduced to this type of combat at Fromelles where they suffered 5,533 casualties in 24 hours. By the end of the year about 40,000 Australians had been killed or wounded on the Western Front. In 1917 a further 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles such as Bullecourt, Messines, and the four-month campaign around Ypres, known as the battle of Passchendaele. As the stalemate wore on, new weapons such as tanks and aircraft played a more prominent role. At Ypres in 1917, the Germans first used deadly mustard gas which caused blistering on the skin and lungs. The British later deployed mustard gas during the breaking of the Hindenburg Line in 1918.

In March 1918 the German army launched its final offensive of the war, initially meeting with great success, advancing 64 kilometres past the region of the 1916 Somme battles, before the offensive lost momentum. Between April and November the stalemate of the preceding years began to give way, as the allies combined infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft more effectively, demonstrated in the Australian capture of Hamel spur on 4 July 1918.

Left background: Four Australian soldiers walking along the duckboard track at Tokio, near Zonnebeke, in the Ypres sector, over a portion of the country captured by the Australians in the fighting of the Third Battle of Ypres, in September and October 1917 (Australian War Memorial)

Left inset top: Australian soldiers gassed during the fighting at Villers-Bretonneux, 1918 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Left inset middle: An 18-pounder being hauled through the mud to support advancing Australian troops, two days before the initial attack on Passchendaele, Ypres, 10 October 1917 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Left inset below: Group portrait of unidentified officers of the 12th Australian Machine Gun Company behind four of their Vickers Mk 1 machine guns, November 1917 (Australian War Memorial)

Below: Improvised Australian sign 'TO FRONT LINE', Bullecourt, France, 1917 (Australian War Memorial)





CASUALTIES OF WAR

Of the roughly 300 Clarence residents known to have served in the Great War, at least 60 would never return home. In the fog of war, it was often difficult to determine how soldiers had died, or even where. These are just some of their stories.

Albert Raymond Godfrey of Richmond (died 10 April 1917, aged 26) was killed at Lagnicourt in northern France during a fierce German counter-offensive. According to his best mate:

“Godfrey was killed by a rifle bullet at Lagnicourt. He was my friend and in the same platoon. I saw him get killed, he is buried in a sunken road. No cross was then erected. It was practically in No Man’s Land”

Frank Edward Pedder of Bellerive was killed in an attack on Messines Ridge on 7 June 1917. Private Moore of the 49th Battalion saw him shot in the head by machine gun fire ‘during the hop over at Messines’. His wallet and equipment were the only things ever located; no burial place is known.

Fred Nicholson of Sandford was in charge of a ration party supplying the trenches near Flers. Losing his way in the dark, Corporal Nicholson accidentally wandered into enemy lines. Approaching a trench, he asked for directions but was answered in German. Somehow managing to remain calm, Nicholson immediately ordered his party ‘About turn and go for your lives’. He was immediately shot through the chest; members of his rations party carried him back to allied lines. He was buried in the military cemetery at Flers.



Arnold Talbot ‘Toby’ Wertheimer of Bellerive was sent with his battalion to dig a strong post near Strazeele in northern France early in the morning of 4 June 1918. According to his comrade’s report, “he walked into a nest of Fritz’s machine guns and I heard him shout to his party to retire, he was the gamest man in the Battalion”. Lieutenant Wertheimer was killed instantly by a ‘whizz-bang’ shell, and is believed to be buried somewhere near Strazeele railway station.

Left background: The Lane brothers of Lindisfarne playing soldiers, 1896. By the war's end, six of the eight Lane boys had enlisted, fighting at Gallipoli and on the Western Front where Bernard and Fred were killed in action (Elizabeth Barsham Collection)

Left inset: Private Albert Raymond Godfrey, killed in action 10 April 1917, aged 26 (Bellerive Historical Society)

Right inset top: Corporal Fred Geeves Nicholson, killed in action 11th December 1916, aged 22 (South Arm RSL Sub-branch)

Right inset top: Lieutenant Arnold Talbot 'Toby' Wertheimer, killed in action 4th June 1918, aged 25

Right inset top: Private Frank Ernest Pedder, killed in action 7 June 1917, aged 23 (Tasmanian Mail)

Background: Troops billeted in a sunken road near Bullecourt, in France, during the fighting of the Australian troops in that sector. Note the graves marked by crosses on the field behind the road. 19 May 1917 (Australian War Memorial)





FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Unlike their counterparts in France and Belgium, the Australians in the Middle East fought a mobile war against the Ottoman Empire in conditions completely different from the mud and stagnation of the Western Front. The light horsemen and their mounts had to survive extreme heat, harsh terrain, and water shortages. Nevertheless, casualties were comparatively light, with 1,394 Australians killed or wounded in three years of war. This campaign began in 1916 with Australian troops participating in the defence of the Suez Canal and the allied reconquest of the Sinai peninsula. In the following year Australian and other allied troops advanced into Palestine and captured Gaza and Jerusalem; by 1918 they had occupied Lebanon and Syria. On 30 October 1918 Turkey sued for peace.

Norman 'Barney' Marshall of Bellerive not only survived the Middle East campaign, he also managed to bring his camera back home, complete with negatives. He and his mate John Murdoch of Cambridge fought at Romani, Rafa, Beersheba, Jordan Valley and Jericho and the final offensives through to the Turkish surrender. During the course of the war Barney had three horses shot from under him.



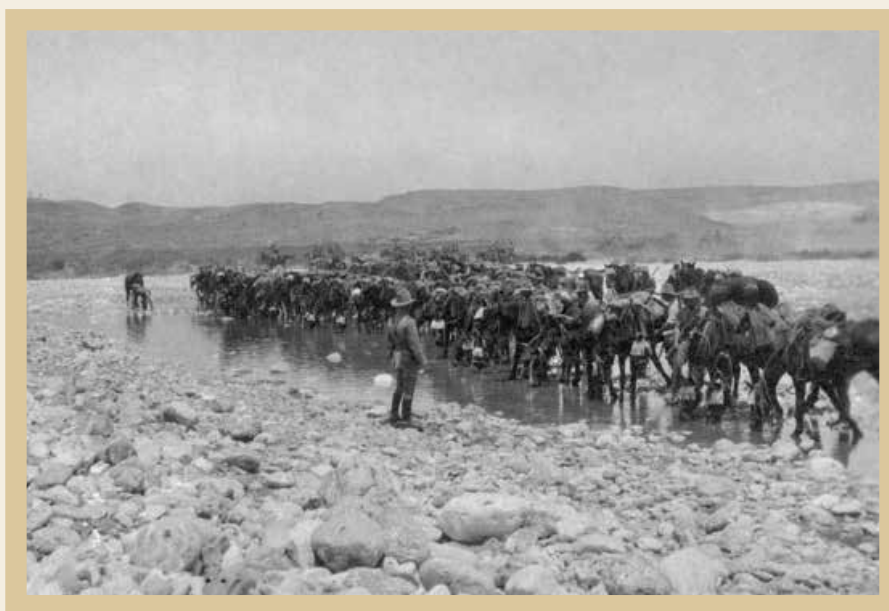
Left background: The leather case from 'Barney' Marshall's camera, believed to have been made from a 3rd Light Horse saddle (Sally Watchorn Collection)

Left inset top: John Murdoch and Norman 'Barney' Marshall of the 3rd Light Horse (Army Museum Tasmania)

Left inset below: 'Barney' Marshall with a Turkish prisoner of war (John Lennox Collection)

Right inset top: Letter from Ronald Heaven re-discovered by a descendent over 60 years later in a house in Lindisfarne (Noeline Heaven Collection)

Right inset below: Australian Light Horsemen watering their horses at a river crossing which was one of the watering places for the Beersheba action, Palestine, 1916 (Australian War Memorial)



THE HOME FRONT

Communities across Clarence held patriotic meetings and fairs to raise money for the Red Cross and other charitable funds supporting soldiers overseas. One such fair at Richmond in 1916 included a ladies' horse race, decorated bicycle race and a hat trimming competition for men. Women also became involved in the war effort, serving as nurses overseas and in Voluntary Aid Detachments at home.

Life in wartime Clarence is vividly captured in the diaries of Agnes Hanslow, whose beloved son Roy had enlisted in 1915. She wrote Roy letters (173 in total) and like a lot of parents, sent regular care packages with such things as cigarettes, tea, shaving gear and even a plum pudding at Christmas. An indefatigable supporter of 'our boys', Agnes supported the Red Cross, attended concerts in aid of patriotic funds, went to prayer meetings, and canvassed locals for contributions to War Loans.

As the war dragged on and casualties mounted, public support for the war, and enlistments, began to waver. Prime Minister Billy Hughes, an ardent supporter of the war and the British Empire, informed parliament that a referendum would be held in October 1916 to introduce conscription. News of the referendum divided the community; many saw it as a shameful attack on liberty, whilst others saw it as a vital measure to support Australian troops already serving.

Henry 'Chappy' Denholm of Bellerive, fighting on the western front, strongly opposed conscription. He felt, as did many serving soldiers, that 'it would have broken the spirit of the boys over here, it is the spirit of freedom or independence that has inspired the boys to perform the great things they have'.

But for mothers like Agnes Hanslow, a 'Yes' vote was the only option – "Isn't there only the one thing to – send help to our boys". Agnes attended a Labour meeting at the Bellerive Institute, and was disgusted with their anti-conscription stance. When the referendum was defeated, Agnes recorded in her diary "the traitors are deserting the boys...German intrigue is at work & there you are".

Background: Bellerive children with baskets made for Red Cross fundraising (Bellerive Historical Society)
Inset top: Entry from Agnes's diary, 4th October 1916 – "Hurrah – 2 letters from Roy...he is splendid thank God" (Marmion Family Collection)

Inset below: 'To the last man and the last shilling' – pro-conscription poster, 1916 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)
Inset right: Selection of buttons collected by Agnes Hanslow of Bellerive (Marmion Family Collection)



COMING HOME

With Turkey having surrendered on 1 November 1918, the Great War finally ended with the German surrender and armistice signed on 11 November 1918. News of the armistice reached Clarence early in the morning of 11 November, with people thronging the streets of Bellerive and gathering at the Post Office 'to display their joyous feeling at the welcome news'.

Returning troops and nurses were welcomed home with huge civic parades. The first Anzac Day march had been held on 25 April 1916, the anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. The newly formed Returned Soldiers and Sailors League of Australia (later to become the RSL) vowed that Anzac Day would be an annual commemoration of fallen comrades, instituting the now familiar format – a bugler sounding the Last Post, the phrase from Rudyard Kipling 'Lest we forget', and the words from Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen':

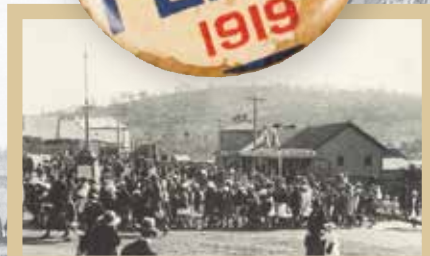
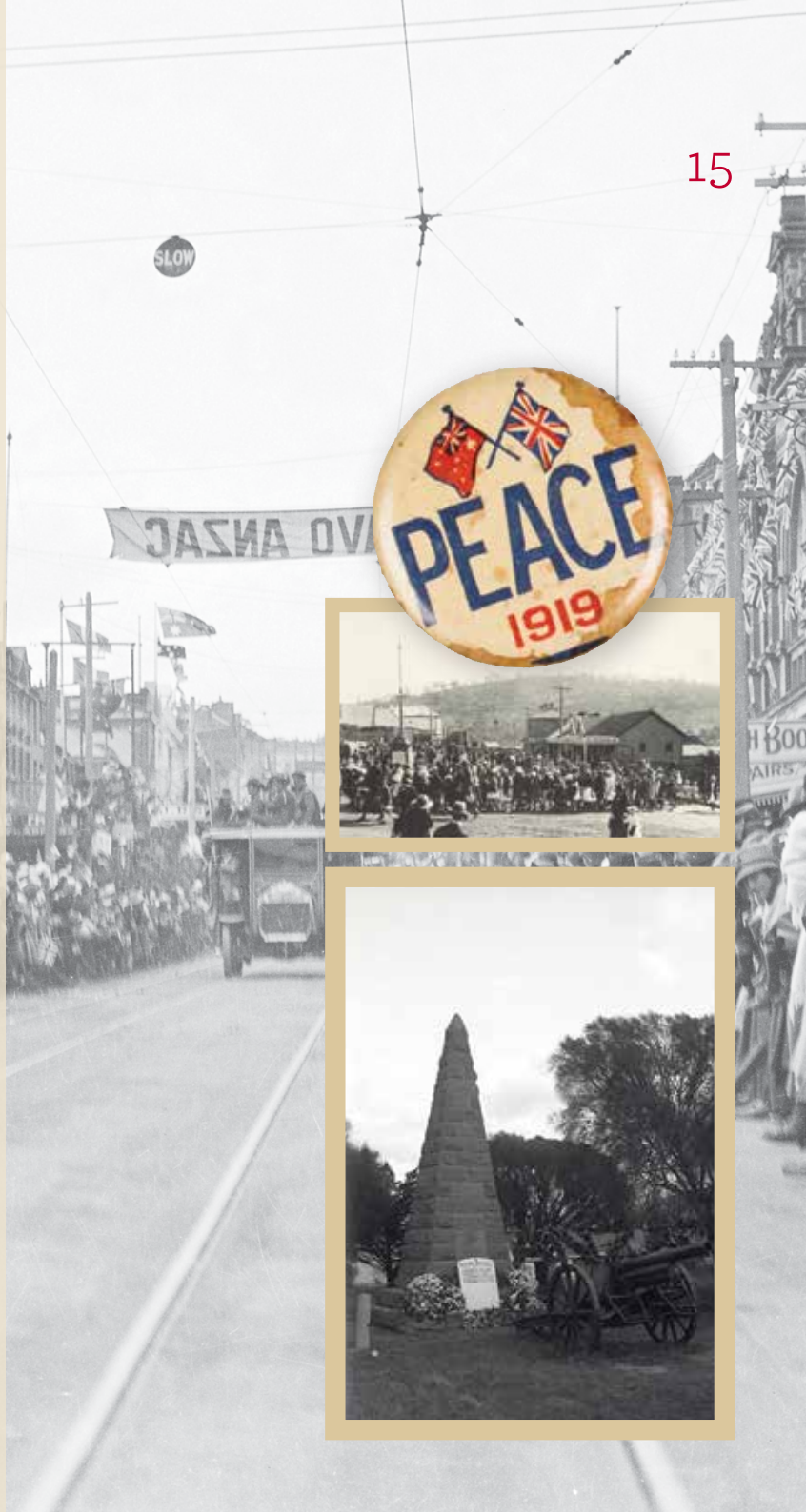
*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Background: Troops being welcomed home, Hobart, 1919 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Inset top: Button celebrating the final peace of the treaty of Versailles, 1919 (Marmion Family Collection)

Inset middle: Anzac Day, Bellerive, 1922 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

Inset below: The Lindisfarne Cenotaph, built ca 1922 by returned servicemen Albert Cranston and William Turner (Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery)





***This exhibition was made possible
through the contribution of the following
individuals and institutions:***

Elizabeth Barsham

Noeline Heaven

John Lennox

Betty Marmion and family

John Presser

Eleanor Roddam

John Sargent

John Wadsley

Sally Watchorn

Military Museum Tasmania

Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery

Australian War Memorial

Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office

Bellerive Historical Society

Lindisfarne Historical Society

*Front and back cover background: Light horse muster at
Claremont, ca 1915 (Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office)*

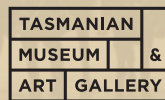
Inset: Badges courtesy Marmion family collection



Australian Government



Tasmanian
Government



Clarence...
a brighter place

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AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ANZAC CENTENARY LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM