



**Government  
of South Australia**

---

Veterans SA

---

**Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

**Anzac Centenary South Australia  
Website Launch**

**Thursday 2 April, 2015  
11.30 – 12.30pm  
Hetzel Theatre, Institute Building  
State Library of South Australia  
Cnr of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue**

Thank you for that introduction Alan

## **Acknowledgments**

- Alan Smith, Director, State Library of South Australia who is kindly hosting our launch event
- Ian Kelly, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Julia Langrehr, RSL SA CEO
- Keith Bleechmore, President of the Legacy Club of Adelaide

## Welcome

- Welcome to the launch of our state's Anzac Centenary website, which I have great pleasure in unveiling for the first time here today.
- Interest in Anzac Day will no doubt surpass anything we have seen previously, as it should.
- While 25 April, 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, the next four years marks a century of service for Australia's Defence Force.
- South Australia's contribution has been significant. In World War 1 alone 34,959 South Australians, or 37 per cent of the male population aged between 18 and 44 years, enlisted. Over 5,500 were killed. In World War II over 54,000 South Australians, almost 10 per cent of the State's total population, enlisted in the Army alone.
- The website is designed to both commemorate the service and sacrifice of South Australians who have served our country and to highlight the significant events, projects and activities that the South Australian Government, ex-service organisations, community groups and other organisations have planned over this Centenary of Anzac period.
- For example there are 22 students who are recipients of this year's Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize who are currently preparing for their trip to Gallipoli, where they will represent South Australia at the Anzac Day Dawn Service. We will be able to gain an insight into their

experiences through our social media sites where they'll be posting updates as they go.

- In 2016 the Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize recipients will visit the battlefields of the western front as our journey through the Centenary timeline turns our view to this arena which proved so devastating for so many.
- Many will not know that the first Gallipoli Memorial in Australia was unveiled in Adelaide on 7 September, 1915, just 135 days after the landings at Anzac Cove. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph* in Lundie Gardens on South Terrace and a commemorative service will be held on Sunday 6 September to commemorate its centenary.

## **Website**

- These are just a few of the activities featured on the new website.
- The website has been specifically designed to focus attention on the contribution that will be made by local communities and groups; encouraging and supporting their efforts to educate and commemorate.
- It is specifically designed to be driven by community contributions.
- We invite you to be involved and to invite others to get involved. Like all websites it will evolve and change over time. Community groups and organisations will be able to upload their own events in the Community

Events calendar. I encourage you to share the stories that you have in your family and communities that you know others would be interested to hear.

## **Conclusion**

- I have no doubt that South Australian's will reflect on the Anzac Centenary in a way that is unique to our State. I look forward to seeing these reflections from individuals, businesses, associations and organisations who understand how important it is to educate and commemorate all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and also those men and women whose service and sacrifice in all wars, conflicts and peace operations has ensured the preservation of the way of life we enjoy today. Lest we forget.