SERVING THE NATION: stories of our Anzacs in war and peacekeeping
Program description and purpose:
The Remembrance Box outreach program provides an inspiring learning experience for students about the nation’s wartime and peacekeeping history and the service and sacrifice of Australia’s veterans. It is delivered by Shrine education staff in regional locations and schools throughout Victoria and incorporates facilitated small group work, hands-on activities with artefacts and memorabilia, the interpretation of documents and photographs and question and answer sessions with local veterans. Some programs are also held in conjunction with the travelling exhibition *History of the Shrine; a building with a soul*, in which case students will be given the opportunity to explore the exhibition.

This level 4 and 5 program explores the major conflicts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students learn about the First and Second World Wars as well as some post forty five conflicts and peacekeeping missions. They hear the personal stories of local veterans as well as investigate the stories of other servicemen and women. The program focuses on the formation of the ANZAC Spirit in the First World War, the threat to Australia in the Second World War and the impact of the landscape on war efforts. They also examine the effect of war and peacekeeping on Australian civilians such as the introduction of rationing in the Second World War and the rates of migration since 1945.

Key understandings:
- Australia’s involvement in the First World War including the landing at Gallipoli and the formation of the ANZAC Spirit.
- The Pacific areas invaded by the Japanese during the Second World War and the risk this posed to Australia.
- The eclectic landscapes in which conflict and peacekeeping have occurred and how it hinders and assists the effort.
- The role of current servicemen and women.
- The effects of conflict and peacekeeping activities on Australians. For example; changes to the work force, the introduction of rationing and rates of migration.

Acknowledgement
This program was funded by the Victorian Veterans Council Grants Program 2008 and developed in collaboration with the Australian War Memorial.

Front Cover Image: *Awaiting orders* 3 December 2007, Operation PNG Assist. Image courtesy of the Australian Defence Department.
Curriculum Links:

Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)

This program contributes towards students’ achievements at Level 4 and 5 of the VELS.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVELS</th>
<th>PHYSICAL, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LEARNING</th>
<th>DISCIPLINE-BASED LEARNING</th>
<th>INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING</th>
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<tr>
<td>LEVEL 4</td>
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<td>LEVEL 5</td>
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<tr>
<th>DOMAIN</th>
<th>LEARNING FOCUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of significant events in Australian history including ... World War I. They demonstrate an understanding of the histories of some cultural groups which make up Australia today. Students demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of an Asian country or countries within the Australian region. They explain significant events and people in the history of that country or countries. Students use a range of primary and secondary sources to investigate the past.</td>
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<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>They identify and discuss the qualities of leadership through historical and contemporary examples.</td>
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<td>Interpersonal development</td>
<td>Students demonstrate, through their interactions in social situations, respect for a diverse range of people and groups. Students work effectively in different teams. Students demonstrate respect for the individuality of others and empathise with others in local, national and global contexts, acknowledging the diversity of individuals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Students read, interpret and respond to a wide range of literary, everyday and media texts.</td>
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<td>They identify opinions offered by others, propose other relevant viewpoints and extend ideas in a constructive manner.</td>
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<td>Students read and view imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that explore ideas and information related to challenging topics, themes and issues.</td>
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<td>Students express creative and analytical responses to texts, themes and issues.</td>
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<td>When listening to others, students ask clarifying questions and build on the ideas of others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Identify and describe the human and physical characteristics of local and global environments depicted by different kinds of maps, diagrams, photographs and satellite images.</td>
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<td>They identify features from maps, satellite images, and oblique photographs.</td>
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<td>Students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the regions of Australia and those surrounding it: Asia, the Pacific and Antarctica. They explain, using examples, how the interaction of physical processes and human activities create variations within the regions.</td>
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<td>Students describe differences in culture, living conditions and outlook, including attitudes to environmental issues, in these regions.</td>
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<td>Thinking processes</td>
<td>Students develop their own questions for investigation. They distinguish between fact and opinion. Students use a range of question types.</td>
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<td>They describe and explain changes that may occur in their ideas and beliefs over time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Students ask clarifying questions about ideas and information they listen to and view. They develop interpretations of the content.</td>
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<td>They interpret complex information. They consider their own and others’ points of view.</td>
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PART TWO: PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Please Note: Students are strongly encouraged to undertake Pre-Visit Activities as Shrine education staff will refer to ideas, information and understandings students acquire from these activities during their visit. It will make the Shrine visit a much more rewarding educational and personal experience for them. Most activities can be restructured to be tasks students could undertake at home, thus reducing the class time required to that needed to bring ideas together and make sense of them.

Brainstorm, Timeline and Map:

Brainstorm what is already known about Australia’s military involvement over the last one hundred years. The following questions may help to stimulate discussion.

- In which conflicts and peacekeeping activities have Australians taken part?
- In which countries did they occur?
- When did they occur?
- Who else participated?
- Why did Australia take part?
- What was the outcome?
- Why are they important?
- How are they commemorated today?

Place the information on a timeline. Use the resource list to find images to add as a visual representation.

On a map, highlight all of the countries mentioned. Discuss the possible reasons why Australia chose to participate in each of these conflicts or peacekeeping missions. Use basic geographical knowledge to predict the climate in each of the locations. Briefly discuss how these conditions would have assisted or hindered the efforts of Australians.
PART TWO: PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary:
Ensure the students know the meaning of each of these words. You may have them seek out the definitions as a research task or create a matching activity with the relevant definitions. They could also be displayed around the classroom or used as a spelling list in the lead up to the session as reinforcement.
- Anzac
- Battalion
- Remembrance
- Service
- Sacrifice
- Allies
- Commemoration
- Conflict
- Peacekeeping

Working with Veterans
As a class, comprise a list of questions that could be asked of veterans. Questions could be asked about their life beforehand, why they enlisted, what their specific role was, positive and negative experience and how the experience impacted on them and their families.
Organising your visit

Upcoming locations can be found on the website at www.shrine.org.au/remembrancebox. If you would like the program to visit your area, please let us know. Bookings can be made by emailing outreach@shrine.org.au or calling 03 9661 8116.

On the day of your visit

The program is one and a half hours long and is free of charge but donations are accepted. Students are not required to bring anything; however, both students and teachers are welcome to take photographs. All students are encouraged to actively participate in the activities provided and ask questions.

Teachers are responsible for the students’ supervision and behaviour at all times.

The Program

Students learn about Australia’s participation in twentieth and twenty-first century conflicts and peacekeeping activities such as the World Wars, the Vietnam War, East Timor and Afghanistan. They participate in hands-on activities with artefacts, memorabilia and images to discover the stories of veterans and better understand the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women. They also have the opportunity to interact with local veterans who provide a firsthand account of one or more conflicts.

Throughout the sessions, students discuss the formation of the ANZAC Spirit in the First World War, the threat to Australia in the Second World War, how differing landscapes affect the war effort as well as the effect of war and peacekeeping on Australian civilians such as the introduction of rationing in the Second World War and the rates of migration since 1945.

If programs are held in conjunction with the travelling exhibition History of the Shrine; a building with a soul, students will also have the opportunity to visit the exhibition and complete the relevant activities to better understand why the Shrine was built and how it has changed.
PART FOUR: SUGGESTED POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Contribute to the Blog
The Remembrance Box outreach program blog is designed as a place where teachers and students can post reviews, comments and photographs from the session. It is an opportunity to share experiences with other students and teachers who took part in the program and add any useful links or information to share with others. [www.shrine.globalstudent.org.au](http://www.shrine.globalstudent.org.au)

Vocabulary
During the session, the students may have heard a word, place name or item that they are unfamiliar with. As a class, construct a list of these words and assign each student a word to research and present to the class.

Mapping our Anzacs
The Mapping our Anzacs website allows access to the military records of all Australian First World War Soldiers. Using the website, research some of the veterans from your local area. Use other sources to find images of the town at the time and images of battles in which they fought. Construct a profile of each veteran and use the information to construct a diary entry or letter outlining what the soldier has experienced and how it has impacted on them.

Local veterans
Many students will have relatives, neighbours and friends who have participated in a conflict or peacekeeping mission. Use the questions devised during the pre-visit activities to interview other veterans from the local community. You may also like to incorporate any artefacts that the veteran may have from their service. The interview could be recorded and compiled together as a class audio or video or could be compiled as a book.

Current servicemen and women
Using the internet and newspapers, find out where Australians are currently serving, their roles and why their assistance is necessary. This will serve as a reminder that Australians are not only serving in areas of conflict but also in disaster zones such as after an earthquake and may also reignite discussion about issues such as refugees and displaced people. As a follow up activity, students may like to devise a way in which the class or school can make a contribution to a relief effort or assist a displaced person.

Your class may also be able to send messages to those serving abroad. At key times of the year such as at Anzac Day, the Department of Defence allows the general public to send messages to current servicemen and women via a designated email address or text message number.
Visit the local RSL and War Memorial

If the program was not held at the local RSL or war memorial, you may be able to visit. Many RSLs have their own displays of memorabilia and artefacts and run education programs throughout the year. Some RSLs encourage local schools to participate in and even organise Anzac Day and Remembrance Day activities in the local area. Contact details for your local RSL can be obtained from your session facilitator or by emailing outreach@shrine.org.au.

Students may also like to write a letter or email to the veteran who attended the session thanking them for sharing their stories. They may also like to take this opportunity to ask any questions they have thought of since the session.

Commemoration Service

As a class, organise a commemoration service for your class or school. In addition to Remembrance Day, Battle for Australia Day and Anzac Day you may like to choose a date which is significant to a specific battalion or individual from your area and make it an annual school celebration. More information on how to conduct a ceremony can be found on the Department of Veteran Affairs website or by contacting the Shrine.

Visit the Shrine

The Shrine of Remembrance offers on site education programs for all year levels. Information on these programs can be found on the Shrine website. More information and bookings can be made by contacting the Shrine Education Team by email education@shrine.org.au or phone 03 9661 8113.
The following resources will assist you with the pre-visit and post-visit activities. More detailed units of work are available from the Shrine of Remembrance website and the Department of Veteran Affairs websites and many others included activities suitable for the classroom. All texts are suitable for VELS level 4 and 5.

**Books**


**Film**

*Gallipoli* (1981) motion picture, Australian Film Commission.

**Websites**

Shrine of Remembrance [www.shrine.org.au](http://www.shrine.org.au)

Shrine of Remembrance Blog [www.shrine.globalstudent.org.au](http://www.shrine.globalstudent.org.au)

Department of Veterans Affairs [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland [www.anzacday.org.au](http://www.anzacday.org.au)

Australian War Memorial [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)


Gallipoli: The First Day [www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/gallipoli2.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/gallipoli2.htm)


Battle For Australia [www.battleforaustralia.org.au](http://www.battleforaustralia.org.au)


Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association [www.peacemakers.asn.au](http://www.peacemakers.asn.au)


United Nations High Commission for Refugees [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)