

ANZAC PARADE

Activity Kit



The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial

During the 1960s South Vietnam was invaded by North Vietnam, who had opposing political views. South Vietnam called on the US and its allies, including Australia, for assistance. Over the course of the war around 60,000 Australian Defence Force personnel joined, or were conscripted to, the conflict, and over 500 Australians lost their lives.

The involvement of Australia in the war was opposed and protested at home. Unlike previous conflicts, this war could be viewed on television. This allowed the public to witness the conflict, even though what they saw was heavily censored. Unfortunately, the anti-war sentiment impacted on the soldiers themselves, with many of our returned servicemen left alienated. Returning soldiers also experienced symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial recognises and commemorates all those who served in Vietnam. The memorial is comprised of two large stone slabs that lean toward each other presenting a feeling

of enclosure. This pair of grave like 'stelae' are open, inviting entry toward the interior space, and creating a space for reflection. Viewed from Anzac Parade the opening allows a glimpse of the interior.

The visitor is encouraged to walk up the ceremonial ramp, crossing water, to enter, to contemplate and remember. This inside space is the dramatic centre of the memorial. Here, images of soldiers with helicopters visible in the background are combined with a variety abstract symbols that are chosen to convey meaning.



Student Activity

A) Look closely at the symbols represented here. Why did the artist choose a circular form to suspend above the helicopter image? What does this represent? What do the intersecting wires attached make you think of?

B) The short phrase “dust off” is inscribed on the memorial wall. What do these words mean in this context? How was rescue different during the Vietnam War?

C) How did the fact that the Vietnam war could be viewed on television affect the public perception of the war?

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The Australian Services Nurses Memorial

The experience of military service gave many nurses new confidence in their abilities and skills. Some nurses received training and opportunities to perform roles previously reserved for men, such as surgery and providing anaesthetics. Despite these advances, working conditions were terrible and maintaining hygiene standards was near impossible.

In a warzone medical supplies were limited and there was a desperate lack of clean water. In extremely dangerous conditions, exhausted nurses cleaned, bandaged, warmed, and importantly comforted their patients. Many of the patients had terrible wounds or were suffering from the effects of disease. Wounded soldiers were treated day and night, some barely able to walk, others on stretchers, shivering or unconscious as a result of their injuries. The women who cared for these men could be mistaken for angels dressed in their uniform of white veils and aprons.

The Australian Services Nurses Memorial both recognises and commemorates the service of these women. The memorial is constructed of a series of rectangular glass panels that combine to form two rounded walls. Light shines through the walls of glass that stand like dominos in tall order. The front wall panel displays the words: *Beyond all Praise*.

Etched and cast into the inner walls are words and images, in a timeline sequence, revealing the history and contribution of Australian Service Nursing. The memorial also includes a collage of pictures and diary entries in the original handwriting of nurses.

The artist herself drew inspiration from accounts that dying soldiers in the First World War just wanted to be held and comforted by nurses. A contemplative space, surrounded with rosemary (for remembrance) has a reflective pool, and the symbols of the armed forces.

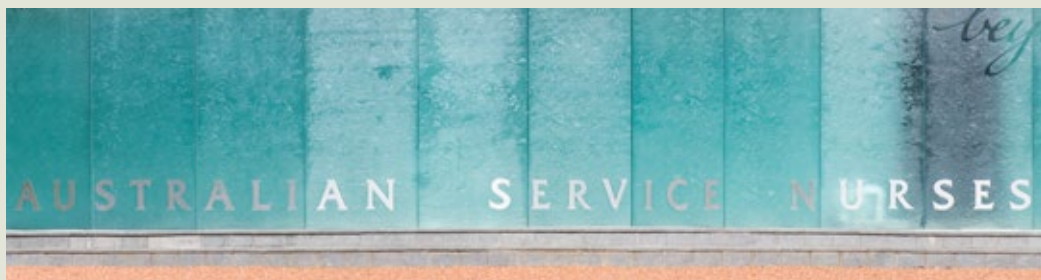
Student Activity

A) What symbols and design features does the artist use to convey meaning? How is the idea of nurturing conveyed? (Find an image online of the nurses memorial to assist you).

B) What do you think is meant by the words “Beyond all praise” on the front display wall?

C) Imagine you are a nurse during World War 1. Write a postcard home to your family sharing some of your personal experiences of patients.

D) How might the active role of nursing during wartime have led to new career advances for women?



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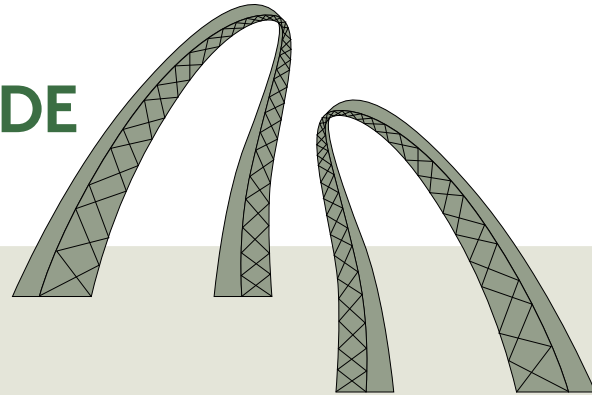
The New Zealand Memorial

The New Zealand Memorial, located at either side of Anzac Parade, is made up of two separate bronze arches; each representing the handle of a basket. The basket handles symbolise the shared experiences of Australians and New Zealanders working together, sharing the load in times of peace and war.

Each handle is distinct, separated by the road between, with one handle representing Australia and the other New Zealand. On the Australian side, Daisy Nadjungdanga from Maningruda in the Northern Territory has designed an Aboriginal motif for the paving beneath the handle, using stones of Australian origin with her design based on a traditional coil basket.

Toi te Rito Maihi and Allen Wihongi from Northland, New Zealand have created a Māori design for the paving on the New Zealand side. All the stones represented here are sourced from New Zealand.

Soil from Gallipoli is buried at the centre of each paved area beneath the arches. Gallipoli, located within Turkey was the site of the famous campaign in which the ANZACs first served and the ANZAC legend was born.



Names of campaigns in which ANZACs served together ripple out from these centres. Our co-operation made us stronger and has had lasting effects not only on our relationship with New Zealand but even the outcomes of past battles. The ANZAC alliance proved to the world that Australia and New Zealand were independent nations prepared to work together and demonstrate bravery, endurance and sacrifice.



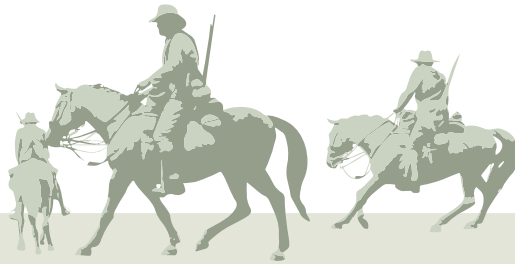
Student Activity

Each of us at a handle of the basket (Mau tena kiwai o te kete maku tenei)

- A) What is meant by this Maori proverb?
- B) How does this phrase resonate with what we think of as Anzac values?
- C) Why was the symbol of a basket handle selected in the creation of these two memorials?
- D) Why do you think soil from Gallipoli is buried at each of these basket handles and in the centre of the pavement?

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The Boer War Memorial

The Boer War Memorial, created by sculptor Louis Lauman commemorates the Australian soldiers, who served in the Boer War from 1899-1902. As loyal British subjects, the Australians went to South Africa to support the British Empire in their attempt to maintain power.

The artist has sculptured four bronze horsemen engaged in a patrol. Lauman uses bronze colouring techniques to give various hues to the figures, such as khaki for the soldier's clothes, tan for the horse's bodies, and black for the horse manes and tails. The mounted horsemen step carefully through the natural bush landscape travelling downhill. Each soldier keeps an eye on his mates while looking out for signs of potential danger. The horses, Australian soldiers and supplies are all represented with historical accuracy providing an authentic snapshot into this period of our history.

The climates and geography of Southern Africa and Australia are quite similar, and most Australian soldiers were well-suited to operating in such terrain. Britain was also quick to understand the need for further horsemen, as the Boers operated with a high degree of mobility across the Southern African grasslands.

At that time, most British troops were recruited from urban environments, and although their training as soldiers was not questioned, lacked the natural horsemanship, shooting skills and bush craft of the Australians. Australian soldiers used their horses for mobility but fought on foot, proving to be the most combat capable contingent and the forerunner for what would later become the Australian Light Horse regiments.



*When the dash and the excitement and the novelty are dead,
And you've seen a load of wounded once or twice,
Or you've watched your old mate dying, with the vultures overhead,
Well you wonder if the war is worth the price,
And down along the Monaro now they're starting out to shear,
I can picture the excitement and the row;
But they'll miss you on the Lachlan when they call the roll this year,
For we're going on a long job now.*



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Student Activity

A) How does the Louis Lauman's portrayal of the mounted horsemen provide insight into the approach to combat adopted during the Boer War? (Find a complete image of the Boer War Memorial online to answer this).

B) What happened to the horses that survived the Boer War? (You will need to research this).

C) Australian poet Banjo Patterson travelled to South Africa in 1899 as special war correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald* during the Boer War. His poem is displayed on the front wall of Boer War memorial. The poem uses strong imagery and an alternate rhyme system to express meaning. What do you think is meant by Patterson's war poem?

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The Royal Australian Air Force Memorial

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was founded in 1921, previously being part of the army as the Australian Air Corps. The Royal Australian Air Force Memorial honours and commemorates all who serve in the Air Force.

The memorial's central abstract sculpture was designed by sculptor Inge King. Three shapes of differing heights ascend into space. These steel shapes represent the endurance, strength and courage of RAAF personnel. The smaller bronze machine like centrepiece could resemble an engine and signifies our struggle to contain the

elements. The RAAF motto is inscribed on the base of the bronze as a statement in latin: PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

A series of black and white photographs of men and women engaged at work in the Air Force form part of a feature wall behind the abstract central sculpture. These pictorial images were later additions and demonstrate the variety of roles, many of which are carried out on the ground. The wall includes a famous poem by John Gillespie Magee called High Flight which evokes the sensation of flying.



*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air . . .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

Student Activity

A) What is meant by the Latin phrase PER ARDUA AD ASTRA? Why do you think the Air Force adopted this motto?

B) The Royal Australian Air Force memorial is for the most part not realistic in style yet suitably portrays the Air Force. What symbols can you find within the sculpture that associate with notions of flight? (Find an image of this memorial from from an alternate viewpoint to assist you).

C) Why do you think the poem by John Gillespie Magee, High Flight was added to the memorial? Read the poem. What creative tools does Gillespie use to create ideas of flying?



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