



Cartoon: Rivvah Heywood, Natasja Shearman

Is the Anzac spirit still in our hearts

EDITORIAL

By **RIVVAH HEYWOOD** and **NATASJA SHEARMAN**

THIS year marks a special anniversary, a centenary, of commemorating the sacrifices of our veterans in World War 1, beginning in Gallipoli.

This war was the first real war that our troops fought in and the commemoration has always held a special place in Australian history.

With those brave veterans now resting peacefully, we have to ask the question, is the Anzac spirit resting with them? Is the spirit still alive and well?

Anzac Day is recognised on April 25 every year.

This year was particularly emotional being the 100th anniversary, so we felt it important to ask: is the spirit still out there?

Many would argue Anzac Day is a critical part of Australian culture reflecting a significant time in our history.

Our forefathers went away to war, many never coming home, never to set foot on Australian soil again, leaving behind mothers, fathers, wives and children.

On the morning that the boats landed at Gallipoli, nothing went to plan, the tide carried the boats too far along the beachfront and this saw our soldiers disembark in a treacherous section of the beach. The Turkish soldiers knew we were coming, our troops were doomed. Over the course of the morning the beach ran red with the blood of Australian soldiers. Do people still care?

This year our school proudly marched along Brunker Road on Anzac morning. Students were proudly wearing school uniforms and some had their grandparents' war medals on as well.

The mood was sombre and heartfelt. You could feel the pride in the cool morning air.

Tributes were laid and respects were paid.

There were crowds all over the city as people shared in ceremonies of their own.

The Anzac spirit is a part of our culture and heritage and we believe it continues to thrive. Students at Adamstown Public School participate in several Anzac activities each year. Events have that sombre feel: respectful and proud.

Our soldiers, past, present and future, sacrifice and fight to preserve our rights and freedoms, is this not worth remembering?

Premier's Reading Challenge engaging

By **FREDERICK BURG**, **ROHAN CUNNINGHAM** and **DARCY MACKINTOSH**

THE 2015 Premier's Reading Challenge has closed again for another year. The Challenge was initiated in 2002, by Premier Mike Rann, to encourage students across the state to read. It was hoped that by reading, literacy levels would improve and students would enjoy reading.

Mike Rann was quoted as saying, "At first the younger children love the idea of medals, but then they fall in love with the books".

This initiative is currently operating in NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. In Western Australia, a similar program also runs.

The Challenge is open to students from kindergarten to year 9. To complete the Premier's Reading Challenge, a student must read a designated number of books (depending on their age and grade) from a prescribed list, with five books that can be free choice. Currently 95 per cent of public, private and independent schools are participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. It is a wonderful way to explore new books and develop an interest and love of reading, particularly when technologies play such a big part of children's lives and monopolise leisure time.

Adamstown Public School this



Adamstown students are ready to read. Picture: Sitharah Janahan

year are aiming for 100 per cent completion. They currently have 216 students enrolled and are confident to get everyone to complete the challenge. Mrs Mahony, one of the co-ordinating teachers, has been helping students record their reading with the assistance of Stage 3 students. There are several classes across the whole school who have already successfully completed the challenge. She went on to say, "with such avid readers in our school, why would we not have 100 per cent

completion rate?"

Some of the school's favourite books include: the *Treehouse* series by Andy Griffith and Terry Denton, *The Rangers Apprentice* series by John Flanagan, *Paper Planes* by Steve Worland, *Windows* by Jeannie Baker and *Gallipoli* by Kerrie Greenwood and Annie White.

Very soon it will be time to start the Premier's Reading Challenge 2016 and the students of Adamstown Public School are very excited to take on yet another year's challenge.

Online #danger comes with hashtag use

By **JAKE BEETON**, **ASHTON EDGAR** and **CLAIRE VAN ZEELAND**

THE hashtag has become a popular way to communicate and share ideas, thoughts, opinions and photographs. The very first hashtag was used on twitter by Chris Messina in 2007. Since then, it has become common in many apps including Facebook and Instagram.

This popular communication tool has a hidden danger. Many popular hashtags such as #love, #instagood, #me, #tbt are com-

monly used to tag pictures.

In inexperienced hands, the use of a hashtag can be dangerous. Not only are you sharing your pictures with hundreds of millions of people, but your privacy may be compromised - if you have not set your device up correctly, followers can see the location that a picture was taken.

For these reasons we believe #hashtagsaren-otforkids #educateyourself and #beaware.



Social media users must be careful when using hashtags online. Picture: Sitharah Janahan

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