



MEDIA RELEASE

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COLLABORATION OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Australian National University and the Australian War Memorial have signed an agreement of collaboration that will see the two national institutions work together to host a major international conference, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

Leading national and international researchers will be invited to reflect on the Gallipoli campaign and examine its place in Australian and other national histories. The conference, to be held in 2015, will bring together Australia's leading research university and the pre-eminent Australian institution devoted to the research of Australia's military history.

"We are very excited to be partnering with the Australian War Memorial to produce this nationally significant conference," said ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb.

"The War Memorial has played an important role in the commemoration of the Australian war experience and it's appropriate that Australia's national university join with the Memorial to assist Australians to remember and interpret the passing of this most significant anniversary."

Memorial Director Steve Gower said the Australian experience in the Gallipoli campaign had become a defining moment in shaping the nation's identity.

"Gallipoli, and what has become known as the ANZAC spirit, has become for many Australians a way of defining themselves and the national identity. It has endured from generation to generation, even as Australian society has changed and become increasingly complex and multicultural. ANZAC is arguably our founding narrative," Steve Gower said.

"It is important to remember that Australians and New Zealanders were not alone at Gallipoli. The British, French and Indians were there; and we must never forget that the Turks fought and died in even greater numbers in this campaign. The remarkable friendship between the Turkish and Australian nations has arisen from both countries' experience.

"All of these voices along with many others will be heard from at the conference."

In addition to the 2015 conference, the Memorial and ANU plan to collaborate in other areas, including a joint conference in 2014, the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, and a further conference in 2018. These alliances directly reflect Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's recently expressed desire for greater cooperation between academia and institutions like ANU and the Memorial in the exchange of ideas.

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