

FRANK MACDONALD MM MEMORIAL PRIZE - James Thompson  
2013

## Statement

### **How was the research conducted?**

This research was conducted through my personal interest of World War 1 history. I used recommended historical texts in the form of literature and websites. This information forms the basis of the research and the collection of personal experiences from local youth which provides a relevant and real perspective about their understanding of World War 1. These interviews were filmed using a DSLR camera and the time lapse at the beginning of the presentation was captured with a GoPro. To record 'voice over' I used my iPhone.

### **Why was this format chosen?**

Using multimedia is a personal interest that I have developed through home and school based learning. This digital format enabled me to capture a mood that represents the devastating events of World War 1. As background music I used "Very Sad Piano Music (Original)" - by Roy Todd, as I felt the slow and sad music related to war.

We live in the age of technology; it is at our fingertips. The current generation is more likely to access audiovisual material as this is how the research of information is sourced today. I also chose this format to make visual comparisons between the life of *yesterday* compared with the life of *today* for example James Martin, age 14 went to WW1 while at the age of 14 I was free to enjoy surfing and other recreational activities. The contrast between the past and present reinforces *why we need to know and remember what happened yesterday*.

### **How is the research related to the format/presentation chosen?**

The presentation uses many images and visual reminders of the war such as the Devonport cenotaph, photos of war scenes, portraits of individual soldiers, cemeteries, memorials and propaganda posters. Through compiling this collection of images and videos the presentation makes World War 1 history relevant and visually appealing to the viewers. I used the time-lapse photography to demonstrate time moving fast and *the war slipping inexorably beyond the fringes of living memory...*

I aimed to capture and present the personal experiences and views of young people to give the viewer a relevant account of their understanding of war. Through interviewing Ella and Josie who were previous Frank Macdonald recipients they demonstrated their passion and emotional understanding of World War 1. By contrast some students at Devonport High School showed little connection. This research emphasizes that *we have to work harder to make sure we do not forget*.

### **What are your conclusions on the specific topic?**

On many occasions I have passed the cenotaph in Devonport and have seen the faceless list of Tasmanian names, it appears some are just tacked onto the bottom. This research has deepened my interest to find out more about these soldiers before their stories are forgotten. Nearly 100 years later there are no surviving veterans of World War 1 and so as we move beyond the centenary we rely on information and stories from closer generations. Australia's heritage and identity has been shaped by the ANZAC legend and we must continue to remember, acknowledge and thank the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the life we have today.

Word Count: 499

# References

## Interviews:

Rose Findlater- Wednesday 26.06.2013

Ella Coates- Friday 28.06.2013

Josie Thompson- Thursday 27.06.2013

Cody Brown and Blair Austin- Friday 28.06.2013

Georgia Thompson- Thursday 27.06.2013

## Music:

Very Sad Piano Music (Original) - by Roy Todd  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTgK4bNjZxg>

## Website Information:

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P00069.001> - James Martin

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/homefront/homefront.html>

<http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au>

<http://www.army.gov.au/Our-history/History-in-Focus/The-Youngest-ANZAC>

<http://industryandchange.wordpress.com/britain-1900-1919/ww1-pic/>

<http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/heath-cemetery/harbonnieres.html>

## Books:

"Victoria Cross Quote" p. 20. Barnett, Guy and RSL Tasmania. Our Heroes Tasmania's Victoria Cross recipients. Launceston: 2007

"Their service is our heritage" Gray, Ian. Valuing Our Veterans unknown published location.

## Images:

<http://www.jeanpaulleblanc.com/NewZealand.htm>

<http://www.sauer-thompson.com/junkforcode/archives/003275.html>

<http://kingygraphicdesignhistory.blogspot.com.au/2010/04/world-war-1-propaganda-posters-normal.html>

<http://www.antiquesreporter.com.au/index.cfm/lot/5839-a-rare-australian-ww1-propaganda-poster-what-are-you-doing-for-a/>

<http://scullysfireworks.edublogs.org/tag/remembrance-day/page/2/>

<http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/AUST-VICTORIA-CROSS-100th-ANNIV-COV-Lt-ALFRED-GABY-/330928572993>

[http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/graves/g\\_lonepine.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/graves/g_lonepine.html)

<http://osd.dtic.mil/news/Aug1998/9808123k.jpg>

<http://ala.pa-legion.com/programs/program-list/poppy/>

<http://barrickbeyondborders.com/2012/06/women-making-strides-in-mining/>

<http://www.anzacwebsites.com/manwithdonkey/simpson.htm>

[http://www.travellingfootprints.com/2012/08/top-10-things-to-see-and-do-in-australia\\_9.html](http://www.travellingfootprints.com/2012/08/top-10-things-to-see-and-do-in-australia_9.html)

[http://www.gallipoliexperience.com/en/battle\\_of\\_gallipoli.html](http://www.gallipoliexperience.com/en/battle_of_gallipoli.html)

<http://www.news.com.au/national-news/general-hurley-tells-remembrance-day-celebrations-wars-reality-is-here-and-now/story-fndo4eg9-1226514566169>

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/dawn-service-in-brisbane-2013-anzac-day-events-guide/story-fn8ygho7-1226627127643>

[http://farm2.staticflickr.com/1282/860710587\\_3b8fee2452\\_z.jpg?zz=1](http://farm2.staticflickr.com/1282/860710587_3b8fee2452_z.jpg?zz=1)

<http://rossrightangle.wordpress.com/2012/01/25/academic-turns-guns-on-oz-flag-happy-australia-day/>

- Photos from Josie Thompson (2011/12) and Ella Coates (2010/11) experiences in France and Belgium
- Photos from the Forth ANZAC service taken by Anne Thompson- 25.04.2013