

ANZAC Speech

Thank you for the introduction Mr Holroyd. Many public speakers use scripts to remember their speech, but being back here in Goold Hall, reminds me just how much I love this place and everything I say, is just going to come from here. *Heart Tap*.

Good Morning staff, students, family and friends. As you just heard, my name is Dan Igoe and I was at Villanova College from 2007 until I graduated in 2015. It's my second of 4 years in training to become a Lieutenant in the Australian Regular Army and I'm also studying a Bachelor of Business at university. The terrible joke I started with today, I actually stole from Villanova's school captain in 2007, Will Weightman. Will was a man of strong character and led this college to a very high standard as I'm sure James is doing this year. Character is a massive focal point in the armed services and is a word always used when describing the ANZACs. I originally joined the Army because it was a challenge, allowed me to work outdoors but most importantly it's an active life that motivates you to stay fit and healthy. What I didn't realise was the level of comradery and mateship that I would be exposed to. Its like your friendship groups here at Villa but strengthened even deeper under trying conditions.

All of the values now held in the Army; courage, respect, initiative and teamwork have stemmed from the comradery of the ANZACs back in 1915. The men and women that served our country in Gallipoli did so selflessly and with complete disregard for their own safety to protect those around them. Under the strong leadership of General Sir John Monash, Australia's involvement on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915 was the first military engagement in which significant numbers of Australians fought and died. I'll bring back the word character to describe General Monash as the man is deemed Australia's greatest commander and one of the best allied Generals of the First World War. He wasn't afraid of scrutiny and letting superiors hear his thoughts. When war broke out he did everything he could to get away from his current posting in a safe admin role to be placed out in a very dangerous command, leading soldiers in the field. The total campaign resulted in the deaths of 7,600 Australians and 2,500 New Zealanders and the wounding of 19,000 Australians and 5,000 New Zealanders. Despite the defeat, the legend attached to the heroism, comradeship and valour of the soldiers, stretcher-bearers, medical officers and others involved, remains a source of Australian pride and national identity. Today, ANZAC day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service past and present.

In our contemporary world, we see our armed services deployed in a plethora of countries serving Australia's interests whether its peace keeping missions in Papua New Guinea, or the training of Afghanistan's military to increase their chances of protecting themselves and fighting insurgents. Whether it's the sand on Gallipoli's beaches or the dust in Afghanistan, Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen serve with the same values and comradery as they did over 100 years ago. All you have to do is look at the likes of men such as CPL Mark Donaldson, VC who ran out into enemy fire to pick up and carry an injured Afghani interpreter to safety or my commanding officers friend who was shot 13 times in the chest whilst saving a mate dragging him out of harm's way and lived.

The character of these men didn't just develop overnight, they didn't wake up one morning and have this level of courage and leadership. It was developed in them from their actions throughout their whole life and the people they surrounded themselves with. The most important thing that

Villanova gives you isn't just your academic studies but a golden opportunity to develop yourself into the men that you want to be. How you approach the challenges of due dates, treat your teachers and hold yourself accountable for your actions all speaks volumes of who you are and builds a lasting perception of your character.

The spirit of the ANZACs with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to be relevant in our Defence Force today which is why I'm so proud and very humbled when I put on this uniform each morning and I hope that I am worthy of such an honour. It has been my absolute privilege to come and speak with you today. Thank you for listening.