



## Jessica Kininmonth | Year 11

### Speech from 2018 ANZAC Day Commemorative Ceremony

On the shores of Gallipoli, April 25 1915, many young men charged into the gun fire of Turkish soldiers and to their fate. Heavy Turkish artillery, deadly diseases, cramped and filthy living conditions and the constant death of friends. For eight and a half months these young men, some no older than ourselves, lived in these frightening, gruelling and inhumane conditions. In their struggle we saw the emergence of what has become known as the ANZAC spirit; ingenuity, courage, endurance and mateship.

Ladies and gentlemen, today I am going to show you how the spirit of the ANZAC lives on through our alumni and in the very actions of current students here at State High.

Major Aaron Cimbalevic, class of 1994, is currently serving in the Australian military.

In 2010 he was deployed to Afghanistan as a foot soldier of Alpha Company. His role entailed patrolling the deserts of Afghanistan, fighting the Taliban and protecting the local population.

Every time he and his company left base they were facing the threat of attack. Sometimes they were directly attacked, however, more frequently the danger was from Improvised Explosive Devices called IEDs, that were installed by the enemy on roads, paths and inside stone walls.

Despite having engineers search for the hidden bombs, not all of them were discovered and safely detonated. In June 2010 two soldiers and a dog named Herbie, were killed after an IED exploded. Many in the company sustained wounds from the blast. Cimbalevic sustained wounds to his hip, left hand and to his face. Yet despite the risks he and his soldiers insisted on returning to continue their job of protection.

Just like the soldiers in Gallipoli, persevering in the face of adversity and standing up for what he believed to be right is how Cimbalevic displayed courage.

BSHS alumni Air Marshal Ray Funnell graduated in 1952 and went on to serve 39 years in the Royal Australian Air Force.

As an aviator, he extensively studied the use of military power, in the air. In 1987 when he became Chief of Air Staff he focused on making the Australian Air Force one of the best and smartest of the smallest Air Forces in the world.

He believed that to be successful we had to be a 'thinking' Air Force not just one that flew high performance aircrafts and relied on upgraded technology.

He also knew that to model Australia's Air Force on a smaller scale of the United States Air Force would be ineffective. He created a manual how on to maximise air power for nations in their particular circumstances.

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His manual detailed processes that got people thinking about 'why you do things, not just how.' Funnell proudly says of his legacy, "Our Air Force is the best equipped small Air Force in the world today and is capable of doing what our nation needs in a situation of extremists."

Just like the soldiers in Gallipoli, creating new ways of thinking to suit Australia's military needs is how Funnell displayed ingenuity.

103 years on from the horrors of the Gallipoli campaign, the legacy of the Australians is not forgotten. The ANZAC spirit formed the Australian identity and is displayed in our military alumni and everyday here at school.

Courage is exemplified every day when we put our hand up in class or voice our views against the status quo. Speaking up when it would be easier to remain silent.

Endurance is displayed on the sporting field or classroom when we are challenged to the point of failure and we don't give up.

Mateship is lived when we show a kindness, empathy and respect to our fellow students despite our differences. Finding a common bond within the student body.

Ingenuity is shown in a growth mindset when we look for new ways of approaching a task.

When we uphold and value the principles of mateship, courage, endurance and ingenuity in our daily lives we ensure that the ANZAC spirit lives on.