



## Bella Boley | Year 11

### Speech from 2021 ANZAC Day Commemorative Ceremony

#### The ANZAC Legacy

To quote the Honourable Sir William Deane AC KBE QC, previous Governor-General (1996 to 2001): “ANZAC is not merely about loss. It is about courage and endurance and duty and love of country and mateship and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.”

Whilst the story of ANZAC was birthed over a century ago, on the battlefield of Gallipoli in April of 1915, the legacy continues to live on. Today we honour the lives of those service people who embodied the ANZAC spirit.

Often times, people tend to glorify war. But war is not glorious. One might say, that because of the inglorious nature of war the actions of those who chose to face it were glorious. The terrible sacrifices made by those in war are something I will never be able to fully comprehend nor convey. The sacrifice of youth, of time, of one's mental health, innocence... all in an effort to defend the country that they love.

These sacrifices have been made by thousands; some were members of this Brisbane State High School community. Australian Defence Force cadets have been proudly supported by State High and there have been many throughout the 100 years of this school; there have been cadets of various services: army cadets, Air Training Corps and shooting teams. The camaraderie fostered and training instilled in these groups paved the way for many to join the Australian military post-high school.

Captain Karl Baudistel was one such person. He was a cadet and student at Brisbane State High School. In 1955, when he was in Year 11, he was a sergeant in the army cadets shooting team. Karl then became a school prefect in 1956, played for the State High Rugby First XV and was a GPS representative for the Rugby reserve squad. Following his completion of high school, he joined the Australian Army and later married Betty Robertson, a former student of the State High class of 1955. Karl then began training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and graduated as second lieutenant in December of 1960. From there, he had several postings, including Townsville and the Malayan emergency and undertook further training in Sydney, to prepare him for deployment to South Vietnam as part of the Australian Army Training team, Vietnam. On August 13th, 1967, Captain Baudistel was killed in action. Captain Karl Baudistel devoted his life to the service of this country. Captain Baudistel truly embodied the ANZAC spirit and we must continue to tell his story.



Mateship is something honoured and sustained in the Australian military. In the face of 'dreadful odds' soldiers rely on those around them for support. Former State High student and Flight Lieutenant Michael Hudson joined the Royal Australian Air Force as a commissioned officer in February of 1964 and found such companionship. He was one of the 350,000 Australians who have donned the uniform over the past 100 years and speaks highly of the 10 years he served with them in accountancy postings around Australia. "Esprit de corps and camaraderie for troops are essential when bound for a war zone, as they only have one another and nothing but one another, when they fall into hell," he says.

Camaraderie and mateship became synonymous with the Australian and New Zealand armies. For some, they enlisted because of that reputation. My great-grandfather, one of the 16,000 Māori people who served in World War II, was one of those people. His name was Gordon Woods and at the age of 15 he left the orphanage in which he lived and lied about his age to join the New Zealand Royal Navy. Like many, he joined the navy because he wanted, so desperately, to serve his country. What he ended up finding was long-lasting friendship, something he lacked in his childhood. When he was 17, he was sent to serve in World War II. He learnt the trade of a radio technician and served on ships including the Gambia and Achilles. The navy allowed him to chase honour and opened-up opportunities that would have otherwise been impossible. He stayed with the navy until 1952, when he joined the NZ Civilian Navy unit. The bonds he formed during war were not lost after its conclusion. He was a faithful member of the Returned and Services Association and was active in maintaining fellowship and camaraderie, until his death. After the war he became a 'ham-radio operator'; he created a shack where he set up radios to talk to other operators, most of whom learnt their trade during World War II. These operators were from all around the world, including Russia and England. They were a community; this connection and mateship prevailed, beyond war.

There are many unsung heroes in the midst of war. There are those who were part of this State High community; many whose story is not often told. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all of the Australian First Nations Peoples and personnel who fought for this country. The Defence Act of 1903 rendered First Nations Peoples exempt from military service in World War I, because they were not of European descent. Despite this, 1,000 First Nations Peoples found ways around this and fought in World War I because they wanted to fight for this country. Throughout World War II, many more First Nations Peoples served, but, once more, faced adversity in gaining respect and recognition. In 1940, the Defence committee decided the enlistment of Indigenous Australians was 'neither necessary nor desirable'. Today let us honour all of the Australian First Nations Peoples who pushed back and bravely served their country.

I believe it to be our duty to continue to share people's stories of sacrifice and courage. To live in the name of the ANZAC legacy, so that their spirit and sacrifice may live on.

# ANZAC Scholar 2021



I am proud that State High continues to recognise and share the stories of brave people of days gone by and celebrate the mateship and camaraderie that was clearly evident, not just in the State High community but among the thousands of courageous men and women who have served and continue to serve our country today.

These are characteristics that all of us hold in high regard and are traits that continue to inspire each and every one of us.

As Major-General Alan B. Steel CBE said in his address to Brisbane State High School, on ANZAC Day of 1957, "Meet the challenge with all our courage and with all our might and the dead of ANZAC will walk every day."

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*Lest We Forget*

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