On this 100th anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops at Gallipoli, we commemorate the event with a special sadness.

For the first time, the men who made this fateful landing on the 25th April, 1915 are all but gone. It is appropriate, therefore, that we revisit the reasons why we commemorate ANZAC Day and exactly what it means to us as a nation and as individuals.

It has often been said that Australia came of age on the morning some 14 years after Federation. That may be true and perhaps that is why we hold the day in such high regard in our national calendar. It certainly is not to celebrate a great military victory because the landing and subsequent battle at Gallipoli were not that. The ANZAC force was landed at the wrong place after setting out at about 3.30am from the fleet of ships anchored offshore, on a night so dark that not even the shoreline was visible. They initially encountered fairly light rifle fire from the Turkish defenders but the Turkish positions were quickly reinforced and by mid morning the Australians and the New Zealanders were faced with withering rifle and machine gun fire from above.

At the end of that first day, 2,000 men lay dead for the gain of about six square kilometres and an advance of scarcely one kilometre inland, where they clung desperately to a small foothold. It was a military disaster from any viewpoint, except for the well-planned and successful evacuation that followed some eight months later. The final count of the dead was 250,000 of which 10,000 were ANZAC troops. But, of course, it is just not Gallipoli we remember on this day, nor is it even the First World War. This is a day set aside for us to collectively give thanks to all those men and women who have put their lives at risk and in many cases paid the supreme price.

An extract of the speech given by Meg Jaeger and Mitchell Brandon
Walter John Clare Duncan 21/1/1894 – 19/10/1939

My Great Grandfather’s cousin, Walter John Clare Duncan, came from a family with traditions of military service. When World War 1 was declared in 1914, Walter Duncan was working in the Bank of New South Wales in Gunnedah. He tried to enlist but was initially rejected as having insufficient chest measurements. Eventually he was able to join the 5th Light Horse training squad and then in January 1916 enlisted in the 33rd Battalion. This was a Battalion made up from men all over the North West. Eventually this battalion was sent to England where more training occurred and then to the Western Front in France in November of 1916. Walter was promoted to Captain and in 1917 the 33rd Battalion took part in the battle of Messines at Ypres in Belgium.

The Battalion spent periods in the front lines of the trenches suffering heavy artillery barrages and gas attacks. There were further battles in well known offensives at Hangard Wood, Villers-Bretonneux and Amiens. The 33rd Battalion was heavily involved in the operation which breached the Hindenburg Line. Walter suffered a number of injuries, including a gunshot wound to the hand, a gunshot wound to the chest, the effects of a gas attack as well as the illnesses that came from being in cold and wet conditions in the trenches. Walter Duncan was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, the Distinguished Service Order for conspicuous gallantry while commanding a company and the Bar for the Distinguished Service Order for the way in which he commanded his company. Walter Duncan survived the war unlike 66,000 other Australians and went on to lead a military life in India. Presented by Emily Brown, Year 10, at the ANAZC Service held at Gunnedah High School on Friday 24th April.

Matron Grace Margaret Wilson 25/06/1879 – 12/01/1977

Not all of the rough conditions of Gallipoli were confined to the soldiers. Australian nurses witnessed and experienced some of these rough conditions. On Lemnos, Matron Wilson and her nurses experienced the inefficiency of military administration in relation to the hospital. In her diary she described the steady flow of new patients during the August 1915 offensive on Gallipoli and the effect that lack of proper equipment had on the care of the wounded:

9 August - Found 150 patients lying on the ground – no equipment whatever…had no water to drink or wash.

10 August – Still no water…convoy arrived at night and used up all our private things, soap etc, tore up clothes (for bandages).

11 August – Convoy arrived – about 400 – no equipment whatever…Just laid the men on the ground and gave them a drink. Very many badly shattered, nearly all stretcher cases…Tents were erected over them as quickly as possible…All we can do is feed them and dress their wounds…A good many died…It is just too awful-one could never describe the scenes- could only wish all I knew to be killed outright.

Presented by Kustiani Tuckerman Year 10.
ANZAC DAY

GHS students at the Boggabri ANZAC Service
CHICKEN CEASER SALAD

Ingredients:

Salad
- ½ chicken breast, cut into 1cm slices.
- 2 teaspoons olive oil.
- 2 rashers of bacon, rind removed cut into 1cm strips.
- 2 slices of bread, crusts removed and cut into 1cm cubes.
- 2 eggs.
- 2 cups water.
- ½ cos lettuce or 2 mini cos lettuces.
- ½ cup shaved parmesan.

Dressing
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar.
- 1 clove garlic, crushed.
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard.
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce.
- 1 egg yolk.
- ½ cup light olive oil.
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice.
- Salt and pepper, to taste.
AWARD WINNING CHICKENS

Gunnedah High School Agriculture Students have received notice of two second place awards at the 2015 Sydney Royal Poultry Show.

In the Hy-Line Brown School Egg laying Competition, School Egg Laying Competition Poultry Classes, the students were awarded:

- 2nd Place for excellence in the class – School Egg Laying Competition Team Presentation
- 2nd Place for Hy-Line Brown Commercial Layers. Team presentation

AECG MEETING

GUNNEDAH ABORIGINAL
EDUCATION GROUP

AECG MEETING

Gunnedah South Public School
Thursday 7th May 2015 - 4pm
All Welcome

WELCOME MR WOODS

Mr. Wayne Woods has been appointed Deputy Principal of Gunnedah High School, commencing duties at the beginning of Term 2. Mr. Woods said “he is impressed with the quality of teaching and learning at Gunnedah High, the opportunities offered by the school, the school-based and community programs, the wide variety of sporting and cultural pursuits as well as vocational education and specialist programs for students”. Mr. Woods comes to Gunnedah High from Tamworth High School where he was Deputy Principal.
BRYCE NEADER-YEAR 8 VIOLET ART

Bryce Neader was awarded a Highly Commended in the Under 18 Years Art Section at the recently held Gunnedah Show. Congratulations Bryce!

SUCCESS IN WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to these Year 8 students who were successful in the Writing section of the recent Gunnedah Show. Ashleigh Mills received second place, Laura Ewington won third prize and Aysiah Garrett was awarded a highly commended certificate.

The prizes for this annual competition were provided by the local teachers’ association in memory of former English teacher, Mrs Len Ford.

ANZAC MEMORIAL TABLETS

School Captains, Mitchell Brandon and Meg Jaeger, participated in the unveiling of the Anzac Memorial Tablets at the cenotaph last Thursday.

The students read out descriptions of the tablets which were installed to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.
Dear Parents/Caregivers

I’d like to start my first newsletter for the term by saying “thank you” to a few people, in particular, Toni Skewes, who relieved as Principal for me during the last 3 weeks of last term when I was away on long service leave and Graham Jones who relieved as Deputy Principal during that time, as well. Mrs Skewes, who had been at Gunnedah High for 15 months, has moved on to the position of Deputy Principal at Tenterfield High. Her knowledge, experience and wisdom were a tremendous asset to myself as Principal and the community of Gunnedah. I wish her every success in her new position.

Unfortunately, she is not the only staff member moving on. Luke Verdon has been successful in gaining a Vocational Education position at Port Macquarie District Office which means we will lose both our TAS Head Teacher in Luke and Hospitality teacher in Megan Verdon. I would like to thank them both for all the work they have put in over the past 5 years; Mr. Verdon as the Head of the TAS faculty and Mrs. Verdon’s efforts as Attendance Head Teacher. Her work in this area has changed the culture of the school and improved our systems considerably. Good luck on the coast.

Our Deputy Principal, Lyn Thomas, will take up a new departmental position for the next two terms, at least, with a possible extension until the end of the year. This is an exciting new position for Mrs. Thomas as she will have input into policy formation for the department, particularly relating to the Rural and Remote Strategy. I’m sure her experience and 12 years service as Deputy Principal at Gunnedah will serve her well in giving advice on policy to DEC personnel in Sydney.

So it is a time of change with our staffing but this is how schools run. People move on. I have started the processes required to fill these positions.

Anzac Day was a big day for Australia and a big day for the Gunnedah community. We held a ceremony to commemorate the event at school on Friday 24th April. I’d like to thank Barry McRae who organised a moving ceremony. I’d also like to acknowledge the exemplary behaviour of the students. There was a hiccup with the Last Post being played and a delay of a couple of minutes. The school stood in absolute silence showing great respect for such an important occasion. Well done, to the students of Gunnedah High.

A large contingent of both staff and students marched in the town march on the 25th. It was certainly a memorable event to be involved in. Thanks to all staff and students who supported this event.

Finally, we are in a situation at the moment with our P&C where the current executive have had their students pass through the school so they have completed their term of service being office holders in the P&C. We need some new blood to take the reins of our parent body. I would strongly encourage parents and caregivers to attend the next P&C meeting scheduled for 20th May so we can have an active P&C in operation to support students of Gunnedah High.

Shane Kelly

Principal, Gunnedah High School.