



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA030

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR – ANZAC DAY

Dear Editor,

It was pleasing to see so many Australians, especially young Australians, attending local Anzac Day commemorations. It is clear that even as the number of our veterans decline, the commitment of Australians to honour their service and sacrifice remains strong.

Across the country services were held to honour Australia's servicemen and women – past and present. Each year many people volunteer their time to plan Anzac Day commemorations in their local community. This is a big task and I thank those involved in planning the many ceremonies held across the country.

It is now 94 years since the Anzacs landed on the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Each year many Australians travel to Gallipoli to honour the Anzac legend at its birthplace and this year was no exception with 7500 Australians attending the Dawn Service at Anzac Cove.

More than 3000 attended the Western Front Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux in France. Thousands more attended services at other Australian wartime sites around the world including Sandakan in Malaysia, Hellfire Pass in Thailand and Isurava in Papua New Guinea.

As our veteran community ages, the involvement of younger generations is the key to continuing Anzac Day traditions and it was great to hear of so many young Australians participating in ceremonies.

Alan Griffin
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Editors note: An image of Minister Griffin to accompany this letter is available for download at http://www.dva.gov.au/media/media_images/images.htm

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