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Courage, Endurance, Good Humour, Ingenuity and Mateship. What comes to mind when you hear these qualities? For me, it's the ANZAC Spirit. The ANZAC spirit is the essence of our past and the key to our future, but some, such as Charles Bean, the author of *ANZAC to Amiens*, say that this spirit died when the Australian Troops left Gallipoli in 1915. He wrote, "By dawn on December 20th ANZAC had faded into a dim blue line lost amid other hills on the horizon..." But it was in fact this dim blue line through which our new nation's identity was born. Each year we commemorate ANZAC Day by gathering through the grey haze and mist of dawn, to remember. On the 25th of April we attend ceremonies all across Australia. They symbolise the awakening of our nation, our nation rising to remember, with pride and honour, all those who fought for our freedoms. So, Charles Bean couldn't have been any further from the truth because as long as the sun rises each day, we will always see this dim blue line with the coming of dawn and remember our ANZACs.

On the 25th of April 1915 the ANZAC Spirit was born, and with it our Australian identity, we were distinctively Australians in the eyes of the world. Our chance came, and we took it, but at a cost. Western Australia sent more troops than any other state but from an estimated total of 50 000 Australians, 9 000 were killed and 18 000 Australians were wounded at Gallipoli, but it's not this we remember most.

We remember the amazing qualities that our men showed throughout such challenging times. They were brave, resilient, hard working, loyal to their country and their mates, and disciplined. 'The Nek' was a prime example of these matchless qualities. 600 light horsemen from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia assaulted Turkish trenches across a strip of land no wider than a tennis court. These men were just ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They were bankers, teachers, farmers, and even teenagers just like us, yet the courage they showed is indescribable.

These ordinary people soon became heroes in Australia. A sports day was held in the Australian Military Camp in Egypt, there was a huge march through London and commemorative ceremonies were held across Australia. It was this day when two-up games became a part of a long living ANZAC tradition. ANZAC Day continued each year and in 1923 the very first Dawn Service was held. It was in Western Australia's own town of Albany.

Reverend White was one of the first Padres to leave Australia and assist in the war. He travelled from Albany with the first Australian Imperial Forces. Before the convoy departed, White held a service, at dawn, for the men in the AIF. In 1919, Reverend White returned to Albany. Remembering the service he conducted in 1914, the Reverend said, "Albany was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service here at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them." By the 1930's Dawn services were being held all across Australia. ANZAC Day traditions had been firmly established.

Every year, our nation stops to remember, whether you are one of the million people that visits the Australian War Memorial or you are like me, from a small country town. Living in a small community like Exmouth doesn't mean that ANZAC Day is any less important. It is actually quite a unique event. Every year we conduct two commemorative ceremonies, one being at dawn. The Australian Army, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal Australian Navy, RSL club members and people from the community all take part in these ceremonies. Even the US Air Force stands beside us to honour the ANZACs. It is the ANZAC spirit that unites us as a community and nation. It brings us all together to reflect and remember.

The ANZAC spirit is what it means to be Australian. When our ANZACs first landed in Gallipoli, and ever since, they have been loyally fighting for our democratic beliefs, rights and liberties. There is some ANZAC spirit in every Australian citizen. It's because of this that we remember those who fought,

those who died fighting and we remember how they were risking their all for our country. Each year on the 25th of April we see the sun rise above that same dim blue line, the same rising sun on the Australian Army badge. That sun rise brings a new day and with it new traditions are made and old traditions are passed along.

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