"These are the names of the sons of this school who at the call of King and Country left all that was dear to them ... and helped to establish a name for Australia that will last as long as the deeds of brave men are recorded in the history of mankind”.

The Rev’d KJF Bickersteth MC
(SPSC Headmaster 1920-1933)
ANZAC 2015: LEST WE FORGET.

ANZAC 2015: LEST WE FORGET.

A message from the Headmaster.

25 April 2015, Anzac Day, will mark the 100th year since the Australian, New Zealand and Allied forces first landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

For most Australians, the term, Anzac, is immediately recognisable. ‘Anzac’ is synonymous with bravery, loyalty, selflessness, mateship, and sacrifice. For many, this will be one of the most important commemorative dates in our nation’s history.

The Anzac reputation was established when soldiers ran head-on into the horrors of war on the shores of Gallipoli in Turkey on 25 April 1915. The first Anzacs faced an insurmountable task. It was the first theatre of war in Australia as a newly-formed nation after Federation in 1901.

During the First World War, 179 Old Scholars made the supreme sacrifice. The loss of life was devastating. Throughout the First World War, over 60,000 young Australians died. Amidst the horror, exceptional bravery emerged and resulted in the character of the Australian digger.

As a community, the Anzac Centenary provides St Peter’s College with the opportunity not only to remember those who fought in the First World War; but, also those who served in all wars, World War Two, from Korea, Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In this brochure, you will learn more about the events we have planned as a School from 21-25 April 2015. Our week of remembrance will culminate with a School Anzac Day Service on the Eastern Lawn of St Peter’s College on Friday 24 April.

It is important we reflect on the role this war played in shaping Australia’s democracy and the part the Old Scholars and the staff of St Peter’s College played.

As we pause and recall those who made the supreme sacrifice, we are reminded that real democracy belongs not to nations but to the people on whom they, as a last resort, always depend.

I invite you to join in our journey to know and understand the parts of peace, war, and conflict, as well as what we can learn 100 years later.

Simon Murray
Headmaster

Pro Deo et Patria

This informal portrait exemplifies the notion of mateship during the First World War.

Pte Thomas Anderson Whyte (left) and Old Scholar Sgt John Rutherford Gordon (right), both of the 10th Battalion, A Company, are sitting on one of the large stones of the Great Pyramids of Giza.

Thomas Whyte, a 28-year old agent from Hyde Park, South Australia enlisted on 19 August 1914. He was wounded in action during the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 whilst rowing his fellow mates ashore. He died from his wounds the same day aboard HMT Gascon.

John Rutherford Gordon (SPSC 1912) spent two and a half years in the 10th Battalion and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 22 June 1918. John Rutherford Gordon survived the war and returned to Australia on 14 June 1919. (Photo courtesy of the Australian War Memorial P07159.065)
Wednesday 22 April 2015
Book Launch Fallen Saints
Memorial Hall, St Peter's College
4:00pm – 6:00pm
This significant book documents St Peter's College and the First World War. Launched by the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Hesu Van Le AO, this book recognises the lives of 179 men who gave exceptional service when duty called during the First World War. After many years of research, military historian Robert Kearney’s Fallen Saints is a publication rich in detail with biographical notes, memoirs, and eyewitness accounts. Robert Kearney’s meticulous and painstaking research has uncovered the contribution of many St Peter’s College Old Scholars Pro Deo at Patria.

Registration is essential. Please contact Clinton Jury

Director – Development & Community Relations by email CJury@stpeters.sa.edu.au or telephone +61 8 8404 0527

Friday 24 April 2015
Year 6 – 12
School Anzac Service
Memorial Hall, St Peter’s College
8:30am – 9:15am
During this service, St Peter’s College will pause to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice. Representatives from the Old Scholars Association, staff, and students will lay wreaths. Throughout the week, Commemorative Crosses will be on display at the Eastern Lawns of the Hall. This will act as a memorial bearing the names of each of the St Peter’s College war dead from the First and Second World Wars who fought for justice and the freedom of the world.

Friday 24 April 2015
Rededication of the St Peter’s College Gallipoli Oak and Anzac Memorial Garden
Eastern Garden
Memorial Hall, St Peter’s College
9:00am – 10:00am
Based on records of the original 1938 service, the St Peter’s College Gallipoli Oak and Anzac Memorial Garden will be rededicated. This garden commemorates the centenary of those who served in the First World War. Gallipoli Oak (Quercus calliprinos) acorns were sent home by the pastoralist William Lemprière Winter Cooke MC (Geelong Grammar School 1906 – 1911) where they were planted near the War Memorial and Chapel at Geelong Grammar School in August 1916. He was among the first Anzacs to land at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The St Peter’s College Gallipoli Oak was raised from an acorn collected by Mr C A Gilham (SPSC Master 1916-1955) from the original Geelong Grammar School tree and was planted by the Tree Planters Association on 25 April 1938. At this service of dedication the Rev’d AGGC Pentreath (SPSC Headmaster 1934-1943) presented K B Price with the oak. The oak was planted in the presence of about one hundred members of the School’s community. An area in the restored garden now features a new memorial tablet and commemorates the planting of the Gallipoli Centenary Oak by the Captain and Vice Captain of the School.

Friday 24 April 2015
Centenary of Anzac Luncheon: St Peter’s College and Prince Alfred College
Da Costa Dining Hall, St Peter’s College
12:00pm – 2:00pm
Many Old Blues and Reds served together during the First World War. In September 1914, the St Peter’s College and Prince Alfred College Old Collegians’ Associations organised a “patriotic farewell” in the Adelaide Town Hall, for over 200 men, who were leaving with the Australian Expeditionary Force. One hundred years later, over 200 current senior boys from Saints and Princes will attend a luncheon at the St Peter’s College Da Costa Dining Hall to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the joint “farewell gathering”. Hosted by the Captains and Vice Captains of St Peter’s College and Prince Alfred College, the 2015 luncheon will be attended by boys from both schools and distinguished guests.

Saturday 25 April 2015
Anzac Day
Anzac Day traditionally begins with Dawn Services around Australia, a reminder of the dawn landing on Gallipoli in 1915. On this day, boys from across many year levels will represent St Peter’s College in their full blazer uniform at Dawn Services across Adelaide and rural South Australia.

Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 April 2015
Saints to The Front
Athelney Heritage Centre, St Peter’s College
10:00am – 4:00pm
For St Peter’s College boys, the Great War was the first war they could participate in to aid their mother country. They enlisted readily, marched proudly, and were enthusiastic about the task that faced them. Many enlisted as soon as their schooling was complete and some just before. The Gallipoli Campaign was their ‘baptism of fire.’ They joined forces with New Zealand and together showed the bravery and courage of their young nations as they landed on the shores of Gallipoli, becoming what would be known as the Anzac legend and commemorated on the 25th of April following that fateful day in 1915. The exhibition at the Athelney Heritage Centre will feature those St Peter’s College boys who enlisted in 1914-1915 and those who fought for God and their country in the Gallipoli Campaign.
Saints to The Front.
An Exhibition Commemorating 100 Years of Anzac
Athelney Heritage Centre, St Peter's College

Daily openings 21-24 April
(About Time) History Festival - see History SA program for details

Top:
Original 10th Battalion officers fully equipped – c. September 1914. During the First World War many Old Scholars from St Peter's College and Prince Alfred College enlisted in the 10th and 27th Battalions. (Photo courtesy of Robert Kearney)

Bottom from left:
St Peter's College Intercollegiate Football Team, 1914. It is recorded that 18 of these players served at Gallipoli and that all School Prefects from 1914 enlisted for the war. (Photo: SPC Archives 5.0011)

Arthur Blackburn VC CMG CBE ED (SPSC 1906-1909) was St Peter's College's second Old Scholar to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He took part in the Anzac Landing at Gallipoli in 1915. (Photo: SPC Archives)
Pro Deo et Patria
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