

Are Nations Made in War?

MILITARISATION IN AUSTRALIA

Normalisation: War is Part of the Furniture

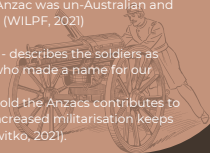
"... shaping its public image as a social service organisation rather than as a combatant institution." (WILPF, 2021)

- The military's increased participation in the domestic sphere means we accept them as legitimate stakeholders in public life (WILPF, 2021).

Myth (ology) Busting

"To interrogate the myth of Anzac was un-Australian and disrespectful." (WILPF, 2021)

- The Anzac legend - or myth - describes the soldiers as larger than life war heroes who made a name for our country (Lake et al., 2010).
- The regard with which we hold the Anzacs contributes to a modern day myth - that increased militarisation keeps Australia safe (O'Dwyer & Kwitko, 2021).



Anzac History: Rewriting the Narrative

"Visions of postwar peace and progress could not be disentangled from victory and the violence that enabled it." (Wellington, 2019)

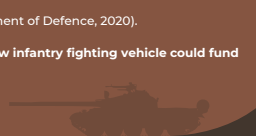
- Australians were most likely to select the Anzacs as the most influential historical figures (AuSSA, 2011).
- Anzac narrative has been uniformly inconsistent (Twomey, 2013):
 - Early chapters talking of pride, heroism, and nation-making.
 - Later perspectives focus on victim-hood and the cost of war.
 - **Rewriting the narrative:** There is a need for critical analysis with a modern lens and a nuanced understanding.
- Today, war memorials establish a national identity rooted in war and conflict (Wellington, 2019).
 - **Rewriting the narrative:** Visit 'Landscapes of remembrance' instead: Sites encourage critical reflection about peace-related issues (Herborn and Hutchinson, 2013).

How many hospital beds does an infantry fighting vehicle cost?

- By 2030, \$575 billion is expected to be invested in Defence (Department of Defence, 2020).

Useful expenditure comparisons of alternative civilian spending: 1 new infantry fighting vehicle could fund approximately (WILPF, 2021)...

- 250 new hospital beds
- 400+ GPs' annual salary
- 9,500+ university students for a year



Peace Education

- Three common components (Standish, 2015):
 - Recognition of violence
 - Addressing conflict non-violently
 - Creating conditions of positive peace
- **Australia's curriculum does not adequately incorporate these (Standish, 2015).**
- There is a need for more officially recognised peace schools e.g. *Parafield Gardens Children's Centre* (George et al., 2017)

Enrolling or Enlisting?

"The intrusion of weapons companies into education is a public health issue." (Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW), 2022)

- Many school STEM programs partner with weapons companies (MAPW, 2022).
- The ADF speak at schools and universities to encourage recruitment and strategically promote the military.
- Defence and defence industry stakeholders funding academic research raises questions about the impact on academic freedom (Troath, 2023).

Demilitarising Education:

- STEM projects without military partnerships: <https://starportal.edu.au/>
- Invite speakers from peace-focused organisations instead of the ADF e.g. Teachers for Peace
- Incorporation of the Alternatives to Violence Project in schools (Millhouse & Missen, 2022).

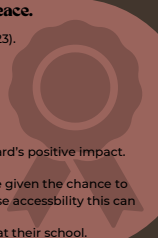
Joan Shears Peaceful Pathways Prize: There's more than one route to peace.

- Prize recognises students' commitment to peace and non-violence (Taubenfeld, 2023).
- 'Peace is...' art prize awarded too.

Jabiru Community College (JCC) is currently the only school that awards this prize.

How can we increase the reach of this award and develop it further?

- Invite previous JCC award winners to speak at other schools.
- Invite principles from other schools to the JCC awards night so they can see the award's positive impact.
- Display the winning 'Peace is...' artwork visibly in the local community.
- Include the award as a mandatory celebration in schools. The winners could then be given the chance to present their work at an expo gathering all the schools' winning students (to increase accessibility this can even be done via zoom).
- Nominate the Year 12 winner of the Peaceful Pathways Prize as the 'Peace Captain' at their school.



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