

# ANZAC COTTAGE

*Education Resources*





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## Foreword

This education package provides suggestions for visits to ANZAC Cottage by groups of school children and for children and visitors on Open Days. The package takes into account the interpretation plan proposed for the Cottage and the forthcoming centenaries of the Gallipoli landing in 2015 and the building of ANZAC Cottage in 2016.

### **Aims:**

To engage children in their understanding and appreciation of the story of ANZAC Cottage

The package is delivered in two parts:

**A Community Engagement and Education** component with suggestions for activities for children and families visiting ANZAC Cottage.

**A Resources for Teachers Package** – including background information, lesson suggestions, student activities and references – for dissemination to schools and teachers. The package is centred on school groups making a site visit to ANZAC Cottage and provides dedicated pre-visit and post-visit activities and information for teachers of Foundation–Mid Primary students and Mid–Upper Primary students. It is suggested that these be disseminated as PDF documents.



## ANZAC Cottage

**ANZAC Cottage - Western Australia's first Gallipoli memorial** was erected to commemorate the landing of Australian Forces at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The cottage was built in one day on February 12, 1916 by the community of Mount Hawthorn as a home for a returned soldier and his family.

The Mount Hawthorn Progress Association decided to build a monument that would be practical - a home for a returned serviceman who had taken part in the Gallipoli landing. The Association began fund-raising, bought a house block and on 29 January 1916, thirty men, armed with shovels, saws and axes, cleared a heavily timbered block in Kalgoorlie Street, Mount Hawthorn. At 4:00pm, the Ladies Patriotic Guild served the workers with afternoon tea.

The following Saturday, 5 February 1916, seventy horse-drawn drays loaded with donated building materials, and accompanied by 150 men, formed a half mile procession through James Street, Perth, en route to the Mt Hawthorn building site. Mrs. Roberts, the 'Soldiers' Queen', headed the procession in her motor car, which also carried a Metters stove and copper. Thousands viewed the procession along the route and on arrival it was greeted by hundreds of enthusiastic men, women and children.

On Saturday 12 February, Mount Hawthorn was awoken at 3.30 am to the sounds of a ringing bell and a town crier: 'Arise, arise! ANZAC Cottage is to be built today'. Community spirit rallied over two hundred men – bricklayers, hod carriers, carpenters, plumbers, painters – to volunteer and dozens of women to serve hot

meals as they toiled. Governor Barron and Mayor Frank Rea addressed the crowd and Lady Barron laid the foundation tablet. Thousands watched as a house was built in one day, a lawn planted and fence erected.

The house interior was completed in the following weeks and the cottage officially opened by Premier and Mrs Scadden on 15 April 1916. The next day the key was handed over to Private John Porter who been chosen to receive the four-room brick bungalow. A soldier in the 11th Battalion, Porter was wounded at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, and in the second contingent of servicemen to return from the campaign. Private Porter at first declined the home, but was prevailed upon to accept the honour. The Australian flag – bearing the motto 'ANZAC' – was hoisted from a flag pole erected in the front garden, a tradition continued each ANZAC Day at 4:30am, the time of the first landing at Gallipoli.

After raising a family of four daughters in the cottage, John Porter died in 1964 and his wife Annie four years later. Family members lived in ANZAC Cottage until 1971. By 1991, the Cottage had fallen into disrepair and was offered to the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia, WA branch (VVAA WA) who accepted ownership of it. The VVAA WA and the Mount Hawthorn ANZAC Cottage Restoration Group restored the building, assisted by a Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest) grant and various donations. The Cottage was gifted to the Town of Vincent in 2006 and continues to be the headquarters of the VVAA WA. ANZAC Cottage is classified by the National Trust, is listed by the State Heritage Council and included in the Register of the National Estate.

# Suggestions for Community Engagement and Education

## Open Days

### Guest Speakers and Storytelling

- The story of the building of the house
- Retired builder, architect, historian to talk about traditional trades and tools used to build the house (particularly those still in use)
- The restoration of the building (how? who? what? when?). Invite heritage and community groups attempting the same.
- Vietnam Veterans' Day – experiences, the organisation and its activities
- RSL/World War II and other veterans – experiences, the organisation and its activities
- Private Porter and family – utilise oral histories and VHS/DVD recordings (will require editing)
- The City of Vincent Library & Local History Centre speaker to provide context on the history of Mount Hawthorn
- Garden Heritage Society – discuss the garden plan for ANZAC Cottage and creating a heritage garden. Invite people to bring plant cuttings to swap. Plant poppies.
- Author Valerie Everett and illustrator Barbara McGuire to talk about their book *The House that Was Built in a Day: ANZAC Cottage*
- Western Australia Genealogy Society – genealogy, local histories, collecting oral histories
- Read excerpts from 11th Battalion war diaries
- War artist
- War correspondent

### Morning/afternoon teas

- Serve food and refreshments of the era (scones, ANZAC biscuits, sponge cake and pots of tea) on appropriate crockery and cutlery. Utilise Annie Porter's cookbook for recipes.
- Compile Annie Porter's cookbook with excerpts from her daughter Marjorie Williams' oral history transcript and sell as a fundraiser
- Invite people to try out Mrs Porter's recipes, document/ photograph the cooking and upload to ANZAC Cottage Facebook page or website
- Invite local bakeries such as New Norcia Bakery to make ANZAC Cottage biscuits for Open Days

### Activities for children and families

- Read *The House that Was Built in a Day: ANZAC Cottage* at a set time
- ANZAC Cottage Mystery History Hunt activity
- Provide period costumes for children and a short script for re-enactment and/or play
- Play traditional children's games– quoits, hoops, knucklebones, skipping ropes, marbles, pitching pennies - on the back or front lawn
- Teach wreath making
- Teach poppy making
- Teach knitting or French knitting (make a scarf as children did for the war effort)



### *Activities for the General Public*

- ANZAC, Remembrance and Vietnam Veterans' Days services
- Continue guided tours and create script (prompts) or notes for the guides
- Invite local theatre groups and secondary schools to create re-enactments, living histories, costumes and plays
- Invite people to bring local history or war memorabilia to Open Days. Record their memories of wartime, the house, street and suburb
- Invite people to bring a mystery historical object or artefact for identification (and supposition)
- Collect oral histories and photos from visitors at Open Days. Invite public or ask to them to upload comments and stories to Facebook/blog page
- Invite IT students to create short films, animation or graphic novels using the Porter family VHS/DVD recordings and oral history recordings of Marjorie Williams, Anne Chapple, Peter Ramsay
- Invite a writer, musician and artist-in-residence to create works about the site
- Create an illustrated timeline of the cottage
- Time capsule
- Install a City of Vincent Heritage plaque in pavement
- Decorate fence with old fashioned bunting
- Create an ANZAC Cottage 100th birthday book
- Outdoor projection of images, sound and words of the procession to build the house

### *Community Engagement and Opportunities*

- Maintain and update audio linked to QR codes
- Maintain and utilise ANZAC Cottage Facebook page
- Promote ANZAC Cottage activities through the City of Vincent website
- Create a regular E-newsletter for Friends of ANZAC Cottage
- Prepare media releases with current and historical photos, activities and excerpts from the souvenir booklet
- Friends of ANZAC Cottage spokesperson guest on The Way We Were with Steve Gordon, 6PR Radio on Sunday evenings
- Organise ANZAC Cottage displays at local libraries
- Link and promote ANZAC Cottage as part of local area heritage trail
- Promote via Visitor Centre/Tourism Webpage
- Link ANZAC Cottage with official national and state activities planned for the centenary of World War I and the Gallipoli landing
- Invite descendants of people who were involved in building the cottage
- Involve and inform neighbours and residents of Kalgoorlie Street and the local area to events in order to foster community ties. (For example, mail drop a flyer)
- Encourage schools to enter the Department of Veterans' Affairs ANZAC Day Schools' Awards
- Contribute to Monash University's 100 Stories project (ANZAC Remembered)



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### Friends of ANZAC Cottage

### Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (WA)

