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Bruce Scates

The Ghosts of Gallipoli: Revisiting the Anzac Battlefields

ABSTRACT



Gallipoli has an iconic place in Australian history. Ninety years after the Landing, it remains central to the way we define ourselves as a people. Since the 1920s, Australians have embarked on pilgrimages to the cemeteries of the Great War; the thousands who gather for the Dawn Service near Anzac Cove are but the most recent generation of these Gallipoli travellers. The 2005 Annual History Lecture will explore the changing memory of war through the historical experience of pilgrimage, examining the significance these 'sacred' sites have acquired in the minds (and historical sensibilities) of many Australians. It will chart the varied responses of young and old, men and women, the pilgrims of the 1920s and today's 'backpacker' travellers. The lecture will draw on interviews, surveys, and a rich archival testimony. It will explore the complex intersection between the personal and collective memory and lay to rest the ghosts of Gallipoli.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Bruce Scates is Associate Professor of History at the University of New South Wales. His work on Anzac Pilgrimage has been funded by the Australian War Memorial, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and a Discovery Grant from the Australian Research Council. He has also been awarded a NSW History Fellowship and served on the Executive Committee of the History Council of NSW.