

TOOLS FOR GIVING A COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH

Don't be nervous about giving a speech at a commemorative event. Use these tips and tricks and you'll be speaking with eloquence, courage and spirit.

SIMPLE SPEECH STRUCTURE

- ♥ Start your speech by identifying the purpose for your remembrance ceremony.
- ♥ Follow by giving some of the basic facts about the military milestone being remembered (see New Zealand's wide-ranging involvement in conflict below).
- ♥ Draw in your audience and tell the story of your community, group, or organisation, their involvement in the events being commemorated and the impact it's had.
- ♥ Consider ending with a quote or poem.

TIPS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

- ♥ Less is more. Build on one key message or theme rather than a broad topic with too much information.
- ♥ When your hands are not being used to gesture, keep them relaxed at your sides.
- ♥ Use a mix of personal, emotive or descriptive phrases and factual information.
- ♥ Aim to touch the hearts of the audience, build a rapport with them and consider how your interpretation of the topic will make them feel.
- ♥ Stand in a central position, use the space when appropriate, and maintain eye contact with the audience.
- ♥ If possible take the chance to do a voice check before hand to help gauge a good volume.
- ♥ Slow down, and let the audience dwell on your ideas & images.
- ♥ Finish strongly by pausing, maintaining eye contact to let your speech's conclusion sink in – don't rush off in your final words!

HISTORY YOU MAY WANT TO DRAW ON

You can use this information about New Zealand's involvement in war in your speech, or search for information online.

ABOUT THE ANZAC SPIRIT

In late 1914, Sgt Little, a clerk at the HQ of the newly formed Australia and New Zealand Army Corps in Egypt coined the acronym "ANZAC" and used it on a rubber stamp he had made to register inwards and outwards mail. It became known as the "Anzac stamp". From these humble beginnings grew the term which is so widely used and recognised today.

What is this Anzac Spirit of which we are so proud? Its virtues are described as courage, compassion, comradeship, commitment. Many see it as having its origins in the special characteristics of the



New Zealand and Australian fighting men at Gallipoli - endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, larrikinism, and mateship. They say our soldiers were innocent and fit, stoical and laconic, irreverent in the face of authority, naturally egalitarian and disdainful of class differences. When the young New Zealanders left for that war they expected to be 'Home for Christmas'. But the reality of the war they went to, and of other conflicts in which our small nation has since been involved, cannot be set aside so lightly.

NEW ZEALAND'S WIDE-RANGING INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT

- ♥ **New Zealand Wars:** We New Zealanders do not consider ourselves a warlike nation, yet our military involvements have been wide ranging. We reflect, sadly, on the New Zealand Wars of the 19th century, when Pakeha fought Maori, when friend fought friend, family fought family in disputes that are still being resolved.
- ♥ **South Africa:** On 21 October 1899, the first 214 Rough Riders embarked for South Africa to join the Colonial Forces there in overcoming the Boer Rebellion, the first of our many overseas deployments.
- ♥ **World War One:** There is a great deal more to be remembered than Gallipoli. As we all too well know, conditions were equally as extreme in the mud and bloodbath of the trenches on the Western Front where there was even greater carnage than at Gallipoli. And in WWI we also served in the heat and sands of deserts of Palestine.
- ♥ **Passchendaele:** The blackest day in our young nation's history was at Passchendaele in Flanders where on 12 October 1917, 846 New Zealand soldiers perished in four hours, as they faced a well-protected enemy, were caught on the barbed wire defences and were mown down by machine guns and artillery in that terrible quagmire of no man's land. During WWI a total of 18,000 Kiwis died in service to the nation.
- ♥ **World War Two:** In WWII serving in Greece, Crete, the Western Desert, Italy, the Pacific, on the sea and in the air, the heavy casualty lists again struck at the heart of our small nation. In WWII we lost more dead per million of population than any other Commonwealth nation.

A SPEECH EXAMPLE

This speech was given by RSA National President, Don McIver, on Anzac Day 2014. Use it as inspiration for your own speech.

What few New Zealanders realise is that over that 114 years since the Rough Riders we have sent in the order of a quarter of a million of our young men and women offshore into active military service to play our part in the opposition to tyranny and oppression and the regimes promoting them, to the resolution of disputes, to the promotion of international stability, to peacekeeping and peace making and the promotion of democratic principles. Overall, more than 30,000 New Zealand soldiers, sailors and airmen have lost their lives in these conflicts. That has been a heavy price for our small nation to have paid.

But the tragedy of those conflicts is not just the patriots we lost. Many of those who did return were changed men, diffident and taciturn, some with an anger they were never rid of; they tried to put the inhumanity of war and conflict and its memories behind them. They and their families suffered as a result of their physical and mental illnesses, many were uncomfortable in their own home country and even in their own family homes, many had difficulty settling back into peacetime employment. Their rehabilitation was often slow - sometimes it was never achieved. And we need to focus our concerns on today's veterans too.

The nature of modern conflict and of peacekeeping and peace making give us hope that the days of those large conscripted armies, despatched to war zones as enthusiastic young amateurs with a minimum of training and marginal equipment have gone. As one Gallipoli veteran said we must hope that we will no longer send "young boys on a man's job." Brute force will have limited impact against modern technology. Equally, at the other end of the scale, brute force is totally inappropriate for low intensity peace keeping type operations.



Today we expect a smaller, highly professional multi role military force capable of managing in the modern, highly technical combat environment.

At Gallipoli the process of establishing our own sense of identity, separate from our colonial past, moved forward a pace – since then it has gathered impetus so that New Zealanders now consider our country to be truly independent and expect decisions to be made based on our own vital national interests and with a deep sense of morality. Our small nation fulfils its role as a conscientious international citizen well. New Zealand is sought after in international fora for its valuable, professional and even handed contribution to the pursuit of international stability and peace. We have a high reputation around the world for doing just that.

Today Kiwis of all generations will participate in parades and remembrance ceremonies around the country reflecting a growing commitment to Anzac Day especially by the children and youth of our country. Our young people are a key resource for our future and it is apparent from their growing commitment to remembrance that they are becoming more aware of the responsibilities they face.

So for me, Anzac is about remembering with pride all who gave their lives in conflict. It is about the rich human potential, which the country lost when we lost so many patriots. We have pride in what they achieved and deep sorrow at the cost of that achievement. It is about remembering their families too who mourn the loss of their loved ones; and those communities large and small that have been impacted upon by their death in battle. For servicemen and women, it is about remembering those we served alongside and the deep comradeship born of adversity; and it's about having the depth of character which will allow us to show compassion for our adversaries. And importantly it is about remembering the impact of these terrible events, across the generations, on the nation as a whole, on every community and the most families.

We need too to pause, to think about the future of the world we live in, of the security of future generations of New Zealanders, of the peaceful resolution of conflict, of the solving the worldwide problems of poverty, hunger and disease, of the provision of adequate healthcare and education and of fair and democratic government for all. These were the unspoken objectives for which our fallen ANZAC comrades made the supreme sacrifice and we must never lose sight of them. We do not glorify war but recollect its privation, its squalor, and its horrors.

To finish, a small quote:

Nigel Turnbull a young man of 22 years of age wrote a poem after his visit to the grave of his Uncle who died at Monte Cassino in 1942.

Recorded in stone and gun metal grey
Those heroes in silence look down as we pray
The standard is dip't, the flowers are laid
Then the music is sounded and homage is paid.
They left us a torch to carry with pride
And hope for a future where peace can abide.
I dream of a life, that's lived without fear
It is for that tomorrow our people lie here
We will remember them!

