

# 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.
- ♥ **1950s – 1970s:** The 1950s to the 1970s saw a shift in New Zealand's military commitments to Asia, with substantial New Zealand sea, land and air forces fighting in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. New Zealand also began to send military personnel to newly established United Nation operations in the Mediterranean, Africa, Middle and Far East.
- ♥ **1970s – early 21st Century:** The Cold War persisted, with NZ sea and air elements conducting maritime operations within NZ and the Pacific, alongside our traditional Allies. Involvement with United Nation missions grew, as the Cold War ended and ethnic, religious and other factors contributed to whole countries descending into civil wars. From the mid-1990s, increasing global instability, both close to home in the South Pacific and far from New Zealand's shores, saw New Zealand create more veterans than in any period since WW2.
- ♥ **The Future:** Our own short history as a nation has been all too frequently punctuated with conflict. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to expect that after all other options have been exhausted, New Zealand will continue to find causes sufficiently important to be worth risking the lives of our service men and women in conflict, as we seek to protect those that cannot protect themselves as a responsible global citizen.

## A SPEECH EXAMPLE

This speech was given by NZDF Lieutenant Colonel Al Mackinnon, veteran of Bosnia and Afghanistan.

ANZAC Day Speech – 2015 – Civic Service

***Tena koutou, tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa, I greet you all.***



## **Te mea tuatahi**

### **Nga mihi ki te Atua aroha mo ana manakitanga ki a matou I taenga mai ki tenei maumaharatanga kotahi rau**

*Firstly, I thank God for bringing us all here today on this 100 year remembrance service.*

## **Tuarua**

**Nga mihi maumahara ki nga mate o te pakanga tuatahi o te Ao, tae noa ki tenei wa. Haere, haere, haere atu ra. Kia maumahara matou ki a ratou.** *Secondly, I acknowledge those who lost their lives in service of our country from the battle fields of WW1, up until today in more recent conflicts, we remember them all.*

## **Tuatoru**

**He mihi rangatira ki te haukainga, a, nga Kaumatua, nga Kuia, me nga whanau, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.**

*Thirdly, I thank the local people, our elders, and their families, greetings to you all.*

## **Tuawha**

**Nga mihi hoki ki nga mena o te Kaunihera a rohe, ki nga matua, ki nga whanau, a, ki nga iwi whanui katoa. Kei te mihi atu ki a koutou I tenei ra maumahara kotahi rau.**

*Fourthly, I also pay tribute to the members of the regional council, our parents, families and the wider public who have gathered here on this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANZAC day.*

*There are some who think that when we celebrate ANZAC Day that we glorify war. I don't know any veterans who think that war is a good thing, but I do know many who believe that it is the right thing to do, to answer the call to defend the innocent and the defenceless from those who do not respect people with beliefs that differ from their own or even respect human life itself.*

*In addition to stirring the desire and willingness to protect others, there are other good things that can come out of the tragedy of conflict.*

*100 years ago today a process began that created a nation, a good nation built on good principles. And that process didn't start in a boardroom or on a social media site, it started in a war, in a distant country, on a beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula.*

*Like all wars, it was not good. Terrible things happened, people were wounded, and people died, on both sides.*

*It is a sad commentary on human nature that often we fail to make the most of peace to change what needs to be changed, but in the cauldron of war, suddenly our priorities are clear and our motivation to change is strong.*

*In the cauldron of Gallipoli, something changed. As the deployed Service personnel and the families back home began to rely more heavily on each other for the strength to endure, forming powerful bonds, we began to think differently about ourselves, no longer considering ourselves as a small part of the British community, but rather as an independent community of New Zealanders. And we went through this change in parallel to, and in partnership with, our Australian siblings who were fighting alongside us.*

*The process of binding us together did not stop at Gallipoli, but we carried it on in our service in other conflicts and in our sense of community back home. And we, on the Kapiti Coast, shared fully in the ongoing legacy of ANZAC.*

*Paikakariki brothers Oscar and William Lynch joined up together and both ended up in Gallipoli, Oscar in the Army Service Corps and William in the Wellington Mounted Rifles. Oscar contracted typhoid at Gallipoli and died in a hospital in Egypt of tubercular meningitis. William was killed in combat on Chunuk Bair. Two other Lynches from another branch of the family, Eric and Henry, made it home.*



*You can bet the family needed the support of a strong community when their boys were away, and even more so when the telegrams arrived concerning Oscar and then William.*

*Frederick Batten was a Naval Pilot in WW2. He was killed when his Firefly burst into flames when he hit a dummy bridge during training in Scotland in 1944. His Mum and Dad, Sydney and Janette would have needed support from their community when they received the news in their Paraparaumu home.*

*Keith Elliot earned a Victoria Cross for his bravery at Ruweisat Ridge in North Africa. He did make it home and later, like many veterans from other places in New Zealand, was drawn to the coast and retired to Raumati where he enjoyed the support of this community till he passed away in 1989, laid to rest in the Paraparaumu Beach Cemetery.*

*In the post World War Two conflicts of Korea, Malaya-Borneo, Vietnam and United Nations and Allied Coalition Operations, we have had few recorded casualties that have impacted on Kapiti, with the notable exception of Graham Grigg, serving with V-Force in Vietnam who was killed in Saigon as the result of a bomb blast in the hotel he was staying in. I'm sure his mother drew support from her Waikanae Community when she heard the sad news.*

*In spite of largely being spared when other communities in New Zealand have not, there has been a steady stream of Kapiti Coasters deploying to conflict zones around the world and we have supported the families of those serving and provided respite for those returning as they re-joined our community, some carrying the scars of service, both visible and invisible, just as the generations of veterans before them did.*

*Before you is a selection of veterans who have returned to Kapiti for you to meet after the parade, please do so and I invite you to thank them for their service.*

*In the last 100 years, from the strength of our community, we have become responsible international citizens, willing to help others in need in far away places, to help them create communities as good as ours. We Kiwis are great humanitarians, caring for refugees, giving to good causes and selflessly supporting our Service personnel who go to stand against the people who are abusing others, breaking up other communities and creating refugees.*

*At the same time, we honour the legacy of our ANZAC forebears by continuing to go overseas to confront tyranny so that we never see fighting in our streets, or bomb damage in our towns, or blood on our beaches.*

*For 100 years now, we have been building on what was started on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the creation of a binding sense of community both nationally and locally. Let me encourage you to honour the legacy of ANZAC by making the best use of our hard won peace to look after each other.*

*For a hundred years, there have been many in our community who have supported serving military personnel and veterans. You have sent us off and been a haven for us on our return. You have sold us our groceries, policed our neighbourhoods, helped us in emergencies, taught our children in school, repaired our cars, met us in coffee shops to see how we are doing and given us a smile and nod as we've passed on the beach. We also know that you have continued to support our families when we have been gone, asking how they are and taking care of their needs when we could not, and for this, we are very grateful. And sometimes you have comforted them when we have not returned. Thank you for doing that.*

*Please keep doing this for the next hundred years, and the hundred after that... further strengthening our community in the spirit of ANZAC.*

**No reira tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa** (greetings to you all)

