



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

Dear World War I Veteran

On behalf of all Australians I extend the warmest of greetings to you and all members of the Australian Imperial Force, the ANZACs, on this the seventy fifth anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.

As C E W Bean observed, insofar as there was a consciousness of nationhood in Australia in 1914, it centred on such things as our political and social progress, the quality of our sheep and racehorses and on our sporting prowess.

When the Australian Government decided in August 1914 to send an expeditionary force to Europe, no one could have predicted the dramatic circumstances which would surround the troops' first experience of combat or that names such as Lone Pine, The Nek, Villiers-Bretonneux, Verdun and ANZAC would soon become a new focus of our national pride.

The waves of nationalism and patriotism which swept Australia as the news arrived from Gallipoli and the battlefields of France are still clearly discernible today.

Because of your part in these momentous events which shaped our nation and helped to define our national character, you will always hold a special place in the hearts of your fellow Australians.

I ask you to accept this magnificent coin-set which symbolises the close historic bonds between the people of Australia and New Zealand, and which signifies that the ANZAC legend, which you helped to create, remains vibrant and relevant today.

R J L Hawke