

2020 Anzac Day Schools' Awards

Topic ideas for your entry

With a topic as broad as the Second World War, the possibilities for engaging students are limitless. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Australian Prisoners of War
- The bombing of Darwin
- The fall of Singapore
- The midget submarine raid on Sydney Harbour
- The Kokoda Track
- The Burma-Thailand Railway
- The role of war artists and war correspondents during the Second World War e.g. Nora Heysen, Damien Parer, Ivor Hele, Dorothy Drain, Kenneth Slessor, Chester Wilmot
- What was the role of women during the Second World War? How does that compare to current day?
- How were school children impacted by the Second World War?
- Would the advertising and propaganda used during the Second World War be successful in 2020?
- How were Australian communities impacted during the Second World War?
- Interviews with the veteran community — families or veterans

Please follow government guidelines and appropriate social distancing advice when engaging with Veterans.

Activity ideas for your entry

We encourage schools to embrace the current physical distancing requirements and explore opportunities for commemorating the Second World War beyond the traditional school assembly.

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| → Hold a debate | → Write and publish a book |
| → Create your own museum | → Create a movie |
| → Poetry anthology | → Develop a website |
| → Create an app | → Produce a podcast |
| → Interview a veteran | → Student led commemoration |
| → Inquiry learning units | → Create your own Ted Talks |
| → Share personal family stories | → Write or perform a play |
| → Engage with your local RSL/Aged Care Facility via phone or video chat. | → Work on a project with your local RSL to benefit Veterans |
| → Explore fictional texts | → Create a memorial at school |
| → Essays or essay competition | → Create a mural |
| → Research Australians at war | → Student letters to Veterans |
| → Record and reflect on a visit to a war memorial (in person or virtual) | |

Exploring history through storytelling is a powerful way to engage students. It helps them to develop a deeper understanding and empathy for veterans, wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

We encourage schools to involve local veterans, current-serving members of the ADF and the families of service men and women. This is a great way for students to discover wartime experiences from a personal perspective. If you are unable to engage with Veterans in your community there are many veteran stories on the [Anzac Portal](#) which may be helpful.