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'In 2005, Australia commemorates the 90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign and the forging of the ANZAC tradition. What elements of the ANZAC tradition and spirit have remained constant in Australian society?'

In your response, refer to Gallipoli and at least one other event or time to support your argument.

On 25th April 2005 we will commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. The Gallipoli campaign can be seen as one of the greatest, as well as one of the ugliest moments in Australian history. Yet out of the deaths and casualties of this campaign emerged a unique ANZAC spirit. The ANZAC spirit can be characterized as one of service to the nation and sacrifice of the individual for the good of the all. Today this spirit continues to inspire Australians in all walks of life, and it can be seen still in Australian society. Australia's recent involvement in the Solomon Islands, as part of the RAMSI¹, and the role of Australians like Ben Mcdevitt, illustrates well the continuing importance of the ANZAC spirit to all Australians.

The ANZAC spirit was not a story made by a bunch of soldiers while sitting around a camp fire, it was a link between all the men who fought for the Australia New Zealand Army Corp, a link forged by death, destruction and memories that would last in the mind of every one of those soldiers for the rest of their lives. It was this bond that brought together the men scattered among the ridge of Lone Pine and Chanak Bair and that taught them to rely on each other for protection and support, a reliability that was moulded into the traditional Australian quality of 'mateship'.

After the war was over the bond between these men and the events of the Gallipoli campaign were commemorated by the annual ANZAC day ceremony of remembrance. It was through the hard work of institutions such as Legacy and the R.S.L.² that this spirit was remembered and the bond lived on. This ANZAC spirit lived on and became a major part of Australian life with services in every major city of

¹ The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands

² Returned Services League

Australia with it also serving to inspire many members of the Australian defence force in later conflicts such as World War Two, The Korean and Vietnam Wars, Borneo, Malay, Iraq and the Persian Gulf. As well as conflict there are also glimpses of the ANZAC spirit in rehabilitation and peace-keeping missions by ordinary Australians. a good example of this being the work of Australian police personnel as well as diplomats in the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands were once a British colony, much like Australia. In 1987 the islands achieved their independence, becoming a nation of the Commonwealth. The Solomon Islands flourished with strong links between itself and the other members of the Asia-Pacific region³. Alas this had changed by 2002 with the nation becoming a 'failed state' being on the border of subsiding. The government had lost almost all of its power with the new law enforcement being by way of armed street gangs. Civil war was on the brink of taking over the nation. Many serious crimes such as rape, murder and arson were being committed with no punishment at all. Many of the people living in the towns were subject to many violent and lawless acts with no sign of them ceasing. Many towns were overrun and controlled by gangs. It was as though there was no respect for the law, let alone the government. Due to this overriding of the democratic peacefulness that had existed once, supplies of food, medicine and clothing were few. The pain and suffering spread throughout the nation. Having this happen so close to home, Australia in unison with ten other countries decided to act. It was at this point in time that the intervention force named RAMSI⁴ was created. RAMSI, meaning Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands led by Australian Diplomat Nick Warner set about restoring law and democracy to the troubled land.

In July 2003, 2000 police and service personnel landed in Honiara⁵ as part of RAMSI. They had a mission, a mission to make safe the city of Honiara and disarm the population, as well as restoring the rule of law. Ben Mcdevitt, co-ordinator of the police contingent of the RAMSI force was to play an important role in this mission and the achievement of RAMSI's initial goals. Being the general manager of the national operations unit in the Australian Federal Police as well as his co-ordination

³ The Commonwealth of Nations is an association of nations formerly ruled by Britain. It is headed by Queen Elizabeth II and has its headquarters in London. Today it aims to promote shared democratic and cultural values among those nations that were formerly British colonies.

⁴ RAMSI includes; Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Kiribati.

⁵ Capital city of the Solomon Islands since 1978

of the initial investigations of the Bali bombings Mcdevitt was chosen straight away to fill this role. Due to his success in completing this task Mcdevitt was awarded the Order of Australia in 2002. Although he had experience in many similar situations Mcdevitt found himself in one of the most challenging roles of his life. After completing the base tasks of RAMSI it was Mcdevitt's job to re-establish the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force into the respectable position it had once had. In this role it was Mcdevitt's job to identify, disarm and dismiss those police officers who had broken the law or conspired to do so. Mcdevitt knew that this would be a dangerous and demanding task due to the limited resources of RAMSI but it also occurred to him that significant national interests were at stake for Australia. After an interview with General Cosgrove Mcdevitt felt that he had to take on this role, he had no choice if the national interests were at stake.

Within the first few weeks Ben and the other members of RAMSI were making a difference with most towns ridden of drunks, criminals and extortionists as well as police officers who had acted illegally. During time spent working with RAMSI Ben Mcdevitt came across all sorts of people and places, with his forces confiscating three thousand, seven hundred and thirty guns, and seven hundred high powered military style weapons were confiscated as well as many other ordinary style weapons which is a very large number for a nation with a population of around four or five hundred thousand people. Since that time there has been very few guns fired in anger and very few fatalities due to gunfire. On top of that the Solomon Islands are starting to regain a respectable name and a respectable way of life.

Although it has been nearly ninety years since the Gallipoli campaign and the time of the original ANZACs there is a spirit that lives on. A spirit shown by most that represent the nation of Australia. When Alec Campbell died in May 2002 it was not the end of the ANZAC legacy, it was just the beginning. It is clear that in today's society that ANZAC spirit lives on, in the mateship shown between Australians and their allies, as well as sacrifice of ones self for the good of the nation. When death and destruction are all around the young people of today's society keep a level head and remember their ancestors who put themselves on the line to give us the great nation today and it inspires them. It inspires them to do their best in all situations and to make sure that the suffering and heartache of all the men and women who died in the war as well as their loved ones was not in vain. When the nation stops and remembers on the 25th of April 2005 it is my hope that the people of Australia do not

just remember the ANZACs who started the legacy but also the many men and women of today who keep the spirit alive.

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