



**The**

*a competition for*

**Simpson**

*year 9 and 10 students*

**Prize**

**2008 winner**

**Victoria**

**Jacinta Scadden**

***Nathalia Secondary School***

*To what extent was Simpson a hero? How have his heroic qualities been demonstrated by other Australians since 1915?*

**by Jacinta Scadden, Nathalia Secondary School**

Jacinta's entry is in the form of a visual presentation. The following pages include the script of her video, her explanation and a list of resources.



## **THE SCRIPT**

John Simpson Kirkpatrick arrived in Australia on the 12th of February 1910. 97 years ago.

### **John Simpson Kirkpatrick**

Simpson was a hero, but not the supernatural characters portrayed on TV shows or movies, such as:

## **SPONTANEOUS ANSWERS**

### **Why was he a hero?**

It was at 5am, on 25th of April 1915, that the Anzacs landed at Gallipoli. Simpson spent 24 days serving at Gallipoli. He would make his way through Shrapnel Gully with his beloved donkey to rescue hundreds of men. He did this on his own order. Facing that terrifying gully each day to save others' lives, at the price of his own.

### **Why do we call him a hero? What do we today define as a 'hero'?**

## **SPONTANEOUS ANSWERS**

### **Heroes today**

The Anzacs were the only soldiers of World War One that were volunteers – all other countries had introduced conscription by 1916. Simpson's heroic qualities have been demonstrated through our communities. We rely on them. But mostly the people – not now called the Anzacs – but called volunteers. That do those extra jobs, not for pay, but because they feel they should. But there are some heroes we do not appreciate as much as they deserve.

## **SPONTANEOUS ANSWERS**

Our heroes: parents, friends, siblings even. They make us happy or cry from laughing too much. They save us from the dark, stress from a school exam or things we don't want to face alone. They are by our sides to comfort us when we cry even while watching a movie or when we buried our favourite pet in the back yard when we were younger. They are heroes to us, because they care.

*Special thanks to Nathalia Primary School students.*



## MY EXPLANATION

If anyone knows what a hero is, children know best! They watch cartoon heroes every Saturday morning. That is why I want to expose some of the things I have learnt about war heroes to the primary school where I once attended. I spent one day in a Prep class and one day in a 3 and 4 class. I told stories and facts about soldiers at war. Then it occurred to me that these students would be great entertainment value for my 'Simpson Prize' entry. But instead of me teaching them things about heroes, they taught me. I was going to base my answer for 'how have Simpson's heroic qualities been demonstrated...' on the volunteers in our communities, but the primary students opened my eyes to a whole new perspective on 'today's heroes'. They all believed that people who give up their time to spend it with you were heroes and it is a quality everyone should have. One boy said that his Grandma was his hero because she had been through a lot of health issues – it was so touching. It was a priceless experience.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Books*

*Gallipoli* – Alan Moorehead

*Not Only a Hero* – Tom Curran

*The Anzacs at Gallipoli* – Chris Pugsley

*The Last Anzacs, Lest We Forget* – Tony Stephen and Steven Sewart

### *Internet*

<[www.firstworldwar.com/posters/australia.htm](http://www.firstworldwar.com/posters/australia.htm)>

<[www.firstaif.info/fffhif/posters.htm](http://www.firstaif.info/fffhif/posters.htm)>

### *Music*

The Anzacs, Ted Egan

The Story of Gallipoli – by six who came back

Gallipoli – directed by Peter Weir

### *Videos*

ABC 4 Corners – Gallipoli: The Fatal Shore

An Ordinary Hero. The Story of John Simpson Kirkpatrick – presented by Patrick Condren

