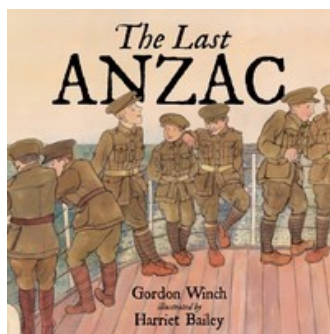


The Last Anzac

By Gordon Winch & Harriet Bailey
Publisher: New Frontier Publishing
ISBN 9781925059298
\$24.99

**Picture Book of
the Month**

To James, Alec Campbell was a hero. He was right. The old man, the last living ANZAC, and all of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought at Gallipoli, were heroes. Alec, who died in May 2002 at the age of 103, enlisted in 1915 when he was just 16. He had put his age up to 18 in order to be accepted by the army and agreed to fight at the front, wherever he was needed. Heroic indeed! James was very fortunate to meet Alec Campbell and find out about his experiences. He gives us a special view of this humble and remarkable man, the year before he died. Based on the true story of a small boys visit to meet Alec Campbell in the year 2001.



Teacher notes are based on those supplied by the publisher, New Frontier.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Before and during reading the book:

- Discuss the word 'ANZAC'. What is this an acronym for and why were Australia and New Zealand fighting together?
- Talk about the fact that this is based on a true meeting between the boy and veteran Alec Campbell.
- Discuss veteran Alec Campbell's age as a soldier at 16; why do the children think he said he was 18, and do they think the government authorities believed him at the time?

After reading the book :

- What about the illustrations tells us where in time the events are taking place?
- How do the illustrations show the difference between the two timelines?
- Talk about the different clothes worn between the early 20th century and the 21st century, including both war uniform and civilian clothing.
- Khaki: Why do the children think that the soldiers wore the dark murky green colour as their uniform?
- The ANZACs were called 'diggers', which has become a general term for soldiers of the Australian army. Where did this word come from?

ACTIVITIES:

- Creative writing: assign the children the task of writing their own letter home from Gallipoli. Outline how they can use sensory language to show what they have 'experienced': the heat, the cold, the smells, sounds and feeling of stomach sickness.
- Badges: Australian WWI badges are illustrated on page 24. Allow the class research time to discover the meaning of each badge (The 1914-1915 Star; the British Medal; the Victory Medal; Gallipoli Medallion etc).