



## ◆ ◆ ◆ Media Release ◆ ◆ ◆

### Gallipoli and Anzac after 100 Years - Lessons and the Prospects for Peace Today

The Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign is hosting a public forum entitled 'Gallipoli and Anzac after 100 Years - Lessons and the Prospects for Peace Today' on Wednesday 22 April. A generous Q&A session to encourage audience participation will follow presentations from our three speakers: Douglas Newton (historian), Margot Pearson (WILPF) and Anne Noonan (MAPW).

*When:* 6.00pm for 6.30pm start on Wednesday 22 April. *Where:* Petersham Town Hall. *Entry:* By donation. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available.

#### About the Forum

The public forum brings together a historian of WW1 and representatives of two organisations that have a long history of advocating alternatives to armed conflict.

**Douglas Newton** is a historian and author of *Hell-bent: Australia's leap into the Great War* and *The Darkest Days: The Truth Behind Britain's Rush to War, 1914*. In *Hell-bent*, he discusses the decision of the Cabinet of Australian Liberal Prime Minister Joseph Cook to cable London on Monday 3 August, offering an expeditionary force and the transfer of the Australian navy – almost forty hours before Britain's declaration of war.

*Hell-bent* supports the thesis that Australia's rushed offer of an expeditionary force gave impetus to the pro-war lobby in London. Moreover, in making this offer, Australia's politicians could have "done better in 1914 than to leap so rapidly and recklessly, without any conditions or limits, into the all-consuming conflict".

**Margot Pearson** has been a long term member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). For the past 100 years, WILPF, in Australia and around the world, has been committed to working towards peace, justice and disarmament. WILPF will celebrate its centenary in May this year.

**Anne Noonan** is Co-ordinator of Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) in NSW. MAPW also has an impressive record of promoting peace and disarmament. Its primary aim is to reduce the physical, psychological and environmental impacts of wars throughout the world.

#### Lessons

There are lasting lessons to be learnt from these events. Australia appears to be repeating its mistakes from the past right now at the behest of a different world power. It can be argued that Australia compromises both its sovereignty and its capacity to contribute to global peace and security by adopting such a servile foreign policy posture. Whatever your stance, these are crucial matters deserving of public discussion and scrutiny.

This public forum promises to offer many valuable insights into Australia's engagement in WW1 and the prospects of de-legitimising war as a 'solution' to conflict in the world today.

**Registrations** for the event can be made via: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/anzac-forum-gallipoli-and-anzac-after-100-years-lessons-and-the-prospects-for-peace-today-registration-15868062803>

**More information** about the speakers can be found at [www.gcpc2015.org.au](http://www.gcpc2015.org.au)

**Contact:** Jon Atkins – 0418 864 907

13<sup>th</sup> April 2015