**The Last Post and Reveille**

*The Last Post* originally meant, literally, the end of the soldier’s day. It was the signal for ‘lights out’. Now, it signifies also the end of a soldier’s mortal ‘day’, a farewell to the warrior.

*Reveille* is from the old French, meaning ‘to waken’ and was traditionally called to rouse soldiers from sleep. It (or *The Rouse*) is played on Anzac Day to represent the wakening of the slain soldier to a better world in the afterlife.

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**Rosemary**

Rosemary has had connotations with memory since the ancient Greek times. Then, students sometimes wove it in their hair to help them remember their lessons! On Anzac Day, a single sprig of rosemary is often worn pinned to a person’s clothes to signify remembrance. Rosemary grows wild and in great profusion on the hills of Gallipoli.

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**Slouch Hat**

The slouch hat is always associated with Australian soldiers. However, it only came into existence because of a shortage of ‘real’ military helmets during the South African wars of the 1890s. The soldiers liked the hat so much, they protested strongly when it was proposed to change it for a peaked cap. The slouch hat was soft and comfortable to wear, as well as offering good protection from the sun and rain. It was turned up and pinned on the left with the Australian ‘Rising Sun’ badge to allow a service rifle to be carried on the shoulder. Light Horse (cavalry) regiments wore distinctive emu plumes on their hats.

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**Saluting**

The most compelling explanation is that it probably arose when soldiers opened their hand and displayed it for others to see that they were not holding a weapon. (This is not dissimilar to the custom of shaking hands.)

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**Simpson and his Donkey**

Jack Kirkpatrick Simpson was an Englishman who came to be in Australia after ‘jumping ship’ from the merchant marine. He changed his name to John Simpson and when war was declared in 1914, he enlisted in Perth. Because of his strong physique, he was made a stretcher-bearer; his job was to assist in carrying wounded off the battlefield.

As a child in England, he had worked for a donkey owner, giving children rides on the beach. At Gallipoli, donkeys had been used to carry water, but a number were abandoned. Simpson struck on the idea of using one of them to carry wounded. He used several donkeys, in fact, but his favourite was one named ‘Duffy’. In an incredible extended feat of bravery, Simpson and his donkey rescued hundreds of wounded soldiers while under enemy fire themselves. When he was killed by enemy machinegun fire on 19 May 1915, he was only 22 years old.
The Symbols of Anzac

Read the text and answer the questions.

1. Write a sentence explaining how each of these came to be a symbol of Anzac Day.
   (a) *The Last Post*
   (c) red poppies
   (d) rosemary

2. Jack (John) Simpson is often considered an Australian war hero.
   (a) What do you think makes someone a hero?
   (b) Would you call Simpson a hero? Why/Why not?
   (c) Design a special medal that might have been awarded to Simpson. Consider pictures and words that could have appeared on the medal.

3. Use the Internet or an encyclopedia to find about each of these Australian war heroes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Famous for ...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert Jacka</td>
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<td>Nancy Wake</td>
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<td>Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop</td>
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<td>General Sir John Monash</td>
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