

ANU HISTORY LEARNING COMMUNITY (HLC)

PUBLIC DEBATE

What's Wrong with ANZAC? Has Australian history been militarised?

Mark McKenna

Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney

Ian Hodges

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Chair: Professor Joan Beaumont

Dean, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU



Monday, 19th April 2010, 8-9pm

Ursula Hall Common Room

Building 50, Daley Road, ANU

A controversial book published to coincide with Anzac Day 2010 argues that for several years Australia has seen the relentless militarisation of our history particularly through the commemoration of war. There has been an extraordinary increase in the number of books, newspaper articles and documentaries devoted to the history of Australians at war. Politicians, government agencies, the mass media and schools also now continuously promote the commemoration of war in Australia and all over the world. Why has this extraordinary growth in the memory of war happened? And has it had the effect, as the authors of this book argue, of distorting our national history, making us forget the other national traditions, of democratic equality and social justice in the name of which we now ask soldiers to fight?

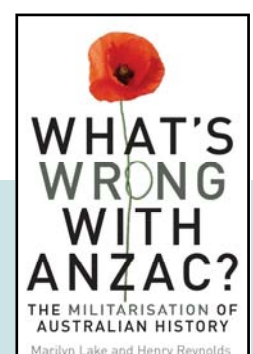
This event is free and open to the public so please feel free to come along. Refreshments will be served after the event. Copies of Mark McKenna's book 'What's Wrong with ANZAC?' will also be on sale on the night.

About the speakers

Mark McKenna is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney and one of the authors of *What's Wrong with Anzac?* He is also author of a number of books including *This Country: A Reconciled Republic?*

Ian Hodges holds honours and post-graduate degrees in Thai language and history from the Australian National University. He was employed as an historian at the Australian War Memorial for ten years and currently works as an historian in the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The debate will be chaired by **Professor Joan Beaumont**, the Dean of Education in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University. She is a regular commentator on television about the history of Australia at war, and a Senior Fellow of Ursula Hall.



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