



New Zealand's First World War Centenary Programme

Information Sheet 1 – The programme overview

July 2014

This information sheet (number 1) provides a general overview of New Zealand's First World War Centenary Programme. It explains who is involved, the nature of the programme and where to get more information. The next information sheet (number 2) provides a high-level narrative of New Zealand's participation in the First World War.

What is the First World War Centenary Programme?

The First World War (1914–1918) was one of the most significant events of the 20th century, and had a deep and lingering impact on New Zealand society. Ten percent of our population of one million served overseas, of which more than 18,000 died and over 40,000 were wounded. Nearly every New Zealand family was affected.

The growing attendance at Anzac Day ceremonies in New Zealand, and the steady increase in visitors to battlefields in Turkey and Europe, demonstrate a continuing interest in the significance of this conflict.

New Zealand's First World War Centenary (WW100) programme will mark the First World War centenary from 2014 to 2019 (when our troops came home).

What are the programme objectives?

The programme's objectives are to:

- Commemorate New Zealanders' service and sacrifice in the First World War
- Explore how New Zealanders' war experiences helped to shape our distinct and evolving national identity and aspirations
- Highlight New Zealand's enduring commitment to peace, global security and international cooperation
- Strengthen New Zealand's bilateral relationships with Australia and all other participants in the First World War
- Deepen understanding of the First World War by telling and preserving stories about New Zealanders' war experiences at home and abroad
- Provide a living legacy of the war's impacts and on-going significance, so current and future generations are more informed.

Who is involved?

'WW100' is a shared identity for New Zealand's First World War centenary projects and activities, from official state ceremonies and legacy projects to community initiatives and personal projects.

Bringing together this rich programme is going to involve community groups and organisations (some of which have received funding from the Lottery Grants Board), councils, individuals and Government agencies.

What does the programme cover?

The programme includes:

- Formal ceremonial and commemorative events, in New Zealand and overseas
- Legacy and heritage projects (for example the development of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington, development of heritage trails in Gallipoli and the Western Front (France and Belgium), the restoration of local war memorials around New Zealand, the digitisation of service records and the release of photographs and diaries)
- Exhibitions
- Printed publications and TV programmes
- Websites and databases
- Performing arts and sporting events
- Educational resources and events
- Commercial products (for example, commemorative postage stamps and coins)
- Public diplomacy programmes overseas.

How long will the Centenary programme run for?

The First World War Centenary Programme WW100 will span New Zealand through the centenary period (2014-2019), encouraging public participation in events, projects and activities that will explore how New Zealanders' war experiences helped to shape our evolving national identity and aspirations. The programme will encourage New Zealanders to engage with our history, to contemplate our role as citizens both in our communities and internationally, and to stimulate discussion about civic values and participation.

What are the major themes?

The WW100 commemoration themes across 2014–2019 match the chronology of events of 1914–1919. The foundation of the WW100 programme is based on the timeline of formal commemorations and significant publications which present New Zealand perspectives on the First World War.

2014: Duty and adventure

2015: The Anzac connection

2016: Transition – a national war effort

2017: The grind of war

2018: The darkness before the dawn

2019: Finding our way back

Community, media and cultural and sporting events are currently focused in the first two years of the commemoration, but we expect this interest to follow through the centenary as those dates draw closer. In acknowledgement of this the Lottery Grants Board has allocated a further \$5 million towards supporting World War One Commemoration activities.

Is this just about war?

No, the WW100 Centenary Programme is about understanding the impact of this major event in our history – on all members of our society at that time and on who we are today – at home and abroad. Many of the centenary activities focus on family connections, the places we live and work in today, the stories we tell and the freedoms we enjoy.

What are other countries doing?

Many other countries are also commemorating the First World War, and its impact on them. New Zealand's commemoration focuses on the First World War impact on us.

Where can I get more information?

More information available is available at:

- WW100.govt.nz
- firstworldwar.govt.nz
- nzhistory.net.nz
- anzac.govt.nz

