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| Newspaper: | <i>Hobart Mercury</i> |
| Date published: | April 23, 2016 |
| Title: | Too much focus on our military history |

As a nation, are we now mature enough to see the bigger picture in commemorating Anzac Day? Can we reflect upon all lives, not just ours, tragically lost in WWI (35 million worldwide), as well as the lives of those who suffered physically and psychologically, and those on the Homefront, and not forgetting the peacemakers opposed to war such as Vida Goldstein.

Beyond this, are we able to reflect on the causes of war and imagine and actively work towards a future for everyone of peace and reconciliation?

Let's drop the notion that our national identity was forged in the militarism of Gallipoli. This is a gross distortion of our history. It tends to eclipse all the other progressive things going on in Australia before 1914, such as the eight-hour-day, full political rights for women, the first living wage, old age and invalid pensions and maternity allowance that extended to unmarried mothers. Although under threat from neo-liberalism, these reforms have stood the test of time. They reflect values of a civil society which should be given greater recognition in nation building than a military invasion and defeat on behalf of an imperial power a long time ago.

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