

HSTY3902 Assignment Proposal

The organisation I have chosen to work with is Holy Cross College, Ryde. Holy Cross is a Catholic boys school situated in the Ryde area of Sydney and provides Catholic education to boys from years 7 to 12. An important feature of this school is the great pride placed in its traditions and history of being part of the Patrician Brothers system of schooling in Australia. Part of why this is so important is because the school uses its history and the many brothers, teachers and students who have passed through Holy Cross College as exemplars and role models for current and future boys. My main contact is the school's archivist, Zachariah Duke, who has aided me in finding and researching many documents and photos the school has preserved (archives@hccryde.nsw.edu.au). Although the school has done extensive research on many of the religious members who have attended the school, a great deal to do with old boys who fought in the First World War has been greatly overlooked. This is why I have been researching, collating evidence and processing data and information of the ANZAC alumni of Holy Cross. The outcome of all this will be to hopefully create a project which will firstly greater contextualise the First World War for the students of Holy Cross and secondly continue the school's method of using school history as an inspirational tool. As I shall explain further, the project shall be conducted in such a way that will bring this public history to young students in high school in an enjoyable and more digestible fashion.

My main aim for this project is to create a series of short multimedia videos which will be interesting and poignant enough for young students at a High School level to enjoy and absorb. In addition to this, I will be looking to see how important public history is in relation to contextualising a world event such as the First World War. Then, by using school alumni, and their stories, I will also see how public history pertaining to local groups who have some form of connection (in this case attending the same school), could have some form of effect on making public history more engaging its audience. I think in this way, the project I intend to create will be of great value as a tool for not only Holy Cross College, but to the audience themselves who will hopefully make some sort of connection with the characters featured in the project. It will serve the need of presenting the history of these alumni, and the war itself, to an audience which is typically disaffected and apathetic to it.

The project itself will be a series of short multimedia presentations in the form of around 3-4 minute videos which will use primary sources such as pictures and video to convey the history of the First World War, Australia's involvement and Holy Cross alumni who fought in it. The videos will contain primary sources, music and voice over explaining the war itself and the lives of the young men who joined up to serve. Additionally, this will back the previous work I've done for Holy Cross. Hours spent scouring over primary sources such as pictures, records and school reports will be incredibly helpful as I will use them to make my presentations. The pictures of the ANZACs will be of first and foremost importance whilst the records and reports shall provide the context and character that will help create the connection between the subject matter and the audience. Bruce Dennett and Stephen Dixon's textbook, *Key Features of Modern History*, is the text book that is used by the school to teach the First World War curriculum and they have asked me, with my agreement, to base my secondary knowledge on the war off this book, which I have agreed. I guess in this way, it bolsters my connection to the school as much of the knowledge shall be familiar to the students.

Ultimately, this project will look to better establish the connection between the public (in this case students) and history. By using public history that means something to the audience, the alumni ANZACs, and combining this with a medium which is easy to digest and pay attention to, my hope is that his method will engage the audience with both public and world history more than ever before. As Holy Cross College looks to teach it's students that they are one of many boys to have attended the College, the hope is by that presenting the ANZAC students as regular students, who in many ways were just like them, a proper connection can thus be created. The aim of my project is to therefore present public history in an emotionally and educationally engaging way in order to establish a greater appreciation of not only the alumni themselves, but of history itself.

PRIMARY SOURCES

As I have not chosen particular students to feature, I cannot list specific names and the photos I will be using, nor do I think it will be ethical to do so at this current moment in time. I am expecting to find a lot more once the school term recommences from school holidays.

1)

Holy Cross College, Ryde- Year Book(s)- 1909-1915

Incredibly useful for school photos, identifying any titbits of information on the men, other bits of necessary information for painting them as ordinary Holy Cross boys.

2)

National Archives of Australia- Service Records for Australians in World War I
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/army-wwi.aspx>

This will be used for service dates for many of the men if I can not find their data in the school archives.

3)

Various news clippings from the time

My research hasn't spread this far to head down to local archives to find if there is anything about the men in local newspapers from the time. This isn't particularly important, however.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Bruce Dennett, Stephen Dixon, *Key Features of Modern History*, 4th ed. (Sydney: Oxford University Press, 2008)

This text will be primarily used for information on the First World War. Contextualising the conflict that these men went to fight in is incredibly important.