

Aayan's Anzac Day Speech:

ANZAC Day's importance does not stem from the remembrance of war, but from honouring the brave people who served to protect our **whenua** 111 years ago on this day. Over 2 and a half thousand New Zealanders laid down their lives on the shores of Gallipoli, along with over 50,000 allied troops. These losses left many families across the country grief-stricken; families still carry this grief over a century later, and we honour these families that lost part of them due to war.

Our nation's act of remembrance of these people is much more than just tradition; it is an act of respect

We all commemorate ANZAC Day in different ways. Whether it be dawn services, wearing a poppy over our heart, or attending ANZAC parades. Regardless of our method, we are bonded and united together by the remembrance and respect we show to our fallen soldiers on this day. We recognise them as the soldiers who fought for us, for our right to stand here today as free people of a free nation.

ANZAC Day is in remembrance of the past and the bloodshed it brought, but it can also be a lesson for the people of **Aotearoa**, especially the youth. Although we are a small nation, we have shown ourselves to be strong in the face of strife and adversity. The soldiers who fought on the shores of Gallipoli were proof that courage, friendship, and perseverance can prevail above all.

Today's generation face their own set of challenges to overcome.

Every day, people face internal and external battles, whether it is a mental battle with themselves or a physical battle with others, like what is happening across the world right now in the Middle East. The youth can learn from the ANZAC's on how to fight against adversity, to grow and persevere to become the future leaders of **Aotearoa**.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

Lest We Forget

Aayan