PRINCIPAL FIONA GODFREY

SPEECH TO THE RADFORD COLLEGE ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

UPHOLDING THE VALUES OF ANZAC

10.30 am
27 APRIL, 2015

RADFORD COLLEGE TURNING CIRCLE
Dr Nelson, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I wanted to reflect on why we have gathered here this morning.

When the Anzac landing occurred more than 100 years ago, Australia was still very much a young nation, finding its way in the world. Many of the soldiers who had gone to war were also young. They too had only just started finding their way in the world. Many would not come home.

In the carnage that followed, the surviving Anzacs relied on values like loyalty, comradeship and devotion to get them through.

And while the original Anzacs are no longer with us, their values are.

This is why we pause to remember them today.

By gathering here this morning, together in solemnity, we reflect on the sacrifices those young men made.

We also remember the sacrifices made by their families, who suffered the tragedy of their fathers, sons, brothers, uncles and cousins not returning to them. Those families felt the impact of that loss every day.

And we also remember the families of those who did come home, but bearing scars, visible and invisible, for the rest of their lives. As we think about our own families, we think about what it must have been like for all of them.
I would also ask us to remember the thousands of nurses who volunteered to serve, both here in Australia and overseas. Some of them were also killed or wounded in action.

So we gather to remember, and we gather to promise, that we will strive to live up to those same values the Anzacs held dear. Our own Year 11 student Angela Liao captured those values in the form of a poster which received an ACT Chief Minister’s ANZAC Spirit Prize. Angela was at Gallipoli for the Dawn service on Saturday.

Of course Gallipoli was not our last battle, nor the First World War our last conflict.

Today we also remember those who served in other conflicts including the Second World War, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

They too exhibited the best of Anzac values, serving this country, serving us, so that we might continue to live in peace.

And it is by choosing what to do with that peace, that we truly honour them.

If we devote ourselves to achieving our goals, both as individuals and a community, if we work hard and if we take care of each other, then we ensure that the spirit of Anzac lives on.