



The Hon Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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AMBASSADORS TO LEAD ANZAC CENTENARY

Victoria Cross recipient Corporal Mark Donaldson, *Gallipoli* actor Mark Lee and former Federal Minister Mark Arbib are among 25 community leaders appointed as Anzac Centenary Ambassadors, Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello announced today.

Mr Dominello said the Centenary Ambassadors will serve on an advisory council chaired by General Peter Cosgrove AC MC (Ret'd) and play an important role in leading the State's commemorations of the Centenary of Anzac, 2014 – 2018.

"The 100th anniversary of the First World War will be a time for the people of NSW to come together and pay tribute to the first Anzacs and to all the brave servicemen and women who have since followed in their footsteps," Mr Dominello said.

"The NSW Anzac Centenary Ambassadors will oversee and take part in a broad program of state, regional and local events throughout 2014 – 2018.

"These ambassadors have been chosen because they are leaders in their respective fields, which include the Defence Force, public sector, arts community and corporate sector. They reflect the diversity present in our community, with a range of ages and cultural backgrounds.

"I am delighted that NSW can now draw on their wealth of experience to help guide one of the most important events in our country's history," Mr Dominello said.

General Peter Cosgrove said the council will meet regularly in the lead up to 2014 to inform and advise the NSW Government on an appropriate program of commemoration activities in NSW.

"I'm very pleased that these highly respected people from all sectors of the community have generously chosen to use their time and expertise to help NSW commemorate the Anzacs," General Cosgrove said.

Ambassador Mark Arbib said: "I'm honoured to help steer the direction of the Centenary commemorations in my home state. I want to make sure all Australians no matter their background can feel part of this important anniversary."

Ambassador Elvi Wood, whose husband Sergeant Brett Wood was killed on duty in Afghanistan last year, said: "I'm honoured to be a NSW Centenary Ambassador and I look forward to providing a voice for war widows and for other family members of Australia's servicemen and women."

Ambassador Mark Lee said: "Through my role in the film *Gallipoli*, I've had the honour of spreading the tale of the first Anzacs. I'm delighted to continue that work as a NSW Centenary Ambassador."

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