In recent weeks we have celebrated the bicentenary of Bathurst’s proclamation as a settlement as well as remembered the World War I military campaign at Gallipoli. Both events have brought our community together to remember our heritage and look to the future.

The bicentenary celebrations captured a unique opportunity to celebrate the history of our town and to bring together different groups within it. The “Peoplescape” project produced a display of people who have contributed to the life and character of Bathurst over the last 200 years. Some of the people represented are still living while others have long passed through Bathurst. Our Year 5 and 6 classes completed profiles of C.E.W. Bean and A.C. Hall VC to include in the impressive display in front of the Bathurst Court House. These two great people stood comfortably amongst the many great characters and high achievers from Bathurst represented at the “Peoplescape” exhibition.

On Thursday, 7th May, students from All Saints’ College gathered with other local students and members of the Bathurst community to participate in the Proclamation Day Bicentenary Celebrations. This was a fabulous event including many dignitaries. Two highlights of the day included a re-enactment of the proclamation of the Bathurst settlement as well as a choir consisting of students from all Bathurst schools. The event was a fantastic display of community pride, cohesion and optimism. All aspects of our local history were acknowledged and celebrated at the unique event.

For the last six years Mr Tony Cable (OBU 1959) has been working eagerly to collect and correct information relating to students from All Saints’ College who served in World War I. This has come to be known as the ANZAC Project. Much of Mr Cable’s outstanding work is available on the College website. The information collected is a wonderful gift to historians and our College community. Titled “Saints who served in the Great War”, Mr Cable’s work brings together candid information from a range of sources relating to our former students. The dossiers make for interesting reading, revealing a great deal about the men and their lives. I hope you might be able to look over this body of work and share in my admiration for what has been compiled by Mr Cable. It is a wonderful project.

Bathurst’s bicentenary and the centenary of ANZAC Day bring forward in our minds important aspects of our history. While we acknowledge these important events and the people who shaped them we also need to consider the importance of the foundation they have set for our College. All Saints’ College is the product of its past and the context within which it operates. The College we have today has been built on this foundation of democracy, optimism and faith. We are fortunate to enjoy a community in which members are valued and listened to, achievements are celebrated and where our students are aspirational as they look to the future. The values shared by our College community are largely unchanged over the history of the College and have set us up for a fantastic future.