

Anzac Day 2016, Address by Steve Wisbey OAM

Not enough of you know me personally but plenty of you think you do...

We all live in an interesting time that is shared and posted and re-shared with friends that are not our real friends and friends that don't love us or have our best interests at heart. Our Country is fast becoming an embarrassing society of celebrity worship and adoration of consumption and glamour following global trends ...This morning to commemorate Anzac Day I've been asked to talk about THE NEXT ONE HUNDRED YEARS...

To be honest I felt overwhelmed when asked to address you...as to me this is such a sacred occasion that I'm definitely not the right person or even worthy of opening my mouth today. I debated with myself...my God...My Family, Why should I be asked... How could I be worthy Of Speaking at this most solemn time in the Town I Love...But I have come to the realisation that I am actually the perfect choice!!

Stephen James Wisbey OAM Steve Wisbey to Most ...Wiz to my mates And THAT STEVE WISBEY to plenty. A ratbag , stirrer, trouble maker, LARRIKIN businessman, that got a medal he didn't deserve for things he did for the community that he didn't do to get a medal for... A man that had more than two wives, a bad reputation and a potty mouth... O A M is more Ordinary Australian Male...

It was Ordinary Australian Men & women that sacrificed their lives in time of war that we are here to commemorate, ordinary that rose to extraordinary challenges and through their self less acts have ensured the democratic freedoms we enjoy today.

The next hundred years we cannot allow these ordinary lives to have been in vain.

ORDINARY ,

Think today of your brother, father, mother, sister next door neighbours, Nan, Pop ORDINARY people. Think of the news around the world and look at what is happening to ORDINARY PEOPLE. ANZAC DAY and for the next 100 years is more important than ever as the forces of evil and despair and tyranny and injustice have never disappeared. They've just morphed and reinvented and usurped democracy AND in every instance the ordinary have suffered and ordinary folks have done their best to defend one another... It is our roll, ALL OF US, to ensure through storytelling and sharing days like today together that we keep alive the ANZAC SPIRIT.

I was involved in the formation of 7th Light Horse Regiment Menangle Historical Troop because we need Living History to inspire the next generation to acknowledge and understand the sacrifice of our forefathers to ensure freedom for our future. To know Camden was at the centre of the Australian Light Horse from inception and that our region and families like the Macarthur Onslow's were involved is something we as a community can be proud of and something we need to find out more about and teach our children about. Our schools cannot alone be trusted with education and history as political agenda rewrites history in education. It is up to us all to be responsible for the accurate depiction and portrayal of our history...and over the next 100 years you and your children's children need to pass down a story that will ensure they understand the ordinary men and women of Australia were called to face extraordinary challenges and they will face them again with courage and valour as did their forefathers. The next 100 years poses the greatest threat to ordinary people if

complacency erodes the knowledge and proclamation of selfless heroic acts of courageous ordinary people. The next 100 years needs your voice to ensure they are not forgotten, WE The Ordinary thank you for your extraordinary sacrifice.

I've stood beneath the Southern Cross ten thousand times at least
And gazed into the heavens in a hope for love and peace
I've searched the stars from where I stand and this is what I saw
Despite earthquake, flood and famine and the never ending War
I saw beneath that Southern Cross the thing they all ignore.

They ignore our youthful wisdom and the spirit in our dust
That it comes from dreamtime walkabout, a mystic wanderlust.
That we all came here from somewhere yet we're altogether now
And far beneath that astral flag we'll not throw in the towel.

We cannot be defeated by the elements or fear
We won't forsake our neighbours
Or the brother we love dear.
We will never bow or break or follow madmen like the sheep
We'll not stand by unsurely while grieving mothers weep.

We are the true Australians and we've given blood & sweat
I don't mind a drink, some of us swear and even have a bet.
We're rough and ready diamonds uncut in some folk's eyes
But to every challenge, trench or nation on its knees
You'll find us in our pockets or giving up our lives.

Although we can't explain it there is magic in our air
There is strength of purpose in each step that makes the bull dust rise
This is the real Australia, seen only through our eyes.

We cannot be defeated
For our future is those stars!
The world around may crumble
Thank God you're where you are!

Below the blanket of our sky
We'll rest eternally
The struggles past were not in vain
Lest We Forget is our refrain.

Lest We Forget