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## Main content

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REVIEW OF WES OLSON'S GALLIPOLI: THE  
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STORY

Janet Butler of La Trobe University reviews Gallipoli: The Western Australian Story by Wes Olson (Crawley: University of Western Australia Press, 2006, pp.396, \$AU59.95 hb).

In her Reconsidering Gallipoli Jenny Macleod divides the early participant accounts into three categories: the official, the journalistic, and the individual. Ninety years after the landing, there are, again, three sources of accounts of the campaign. Journalists, who have never left the field, were joined in the 1960s by academic historians, led by the pioneering work of Ken Inglis. The third kind of account is the community history--always a labour of love--which is based on the records that a family, a country town, or in this case an entire state, has saved of its sons and daughters at war, and which is written for that community, by one of its members.

Wes Olson's Gallipoli: The Western Australian Story is an exceptional example. Inspired by his reading of a Gallipoli diary, Olson, a one-time reservist in the present day incarnation of the 11th Battalion, and a volunteer at the Army Museum of Western Australia, determined to write a history of Western Australians' experience of Gallipoli using the soldiers' own tales. Respondents to his call for information expressed the triple desire that their father's, grandfather's or uncle's story be told, that they learn more about what it was really like at Gallipoli, and that they could find out how 'their' soldier had died. In presenting his State's particular history, Olson set out to answer these needs.

Olson argues that the Western Australian experience has often been...

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