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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Review of Wes Olson’s Gallipoli: The Western Australian Story. Janet Butler. Sociology. 2008 (First Published: 1 August 2008). Janet Butler of La Trobe University reviews Gallipoli: The Western Australian Story by Wes Olson (Crawley: University of Western Australia Press, 2006, pp.396, $AU59.95hb). View via Publisher. Cite. Late in 1998 it was announced to universal approval that the Olympic torch would be lit for the first time in Australia at Uluru. It was an inspired choice. For indigenous Australians, in the words… Continue Reading. Cite. Gallipoli is the remarkable story of two Western Australian mates who are sent to Gallipoli in 1915. Frank and Archie are both very successful sprinters and Archie wants adventure, while Frank wants to stay in Australia, but signs up for the inventory anyway. This story brings back some harsh truths about warfare, and explains why so many na"ive young men joined up, only to suffer deaths well before their time. The troops were headed for the Gallipoli peninsula and the Dardanelles Strait, in southern Turkey, to attempt to take the peninsula. Australians, New Zealanders and Turks all commonly make pilgrimages to the battlefield, now a protected national park with numerous gravesites and memorials. Australian soldiers on the beach at Anzac Cove on April 25, 1915. (Credit: Philip Schuller/The AGE/Fairfax Media via Getty Images). 8. The last Gallipoli survivor made it to the 21st century. Having lied about his age to enlist, 16-year-old Alec Campbell arrived at Gallipoli in October 1915, only to fall ill with a bad case of the mumps. HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate. Sign up for more history! Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you. A general history of the medical aspect of the campaign can be found in: M Tyquin, Gallipoli: the Medical War: the Australian Army Medical Services in the Dardanelles Campaign of 1915 (UNSW Press, Kensington, 1993). Gallipoli—legend versus reality. The following articles are from Wartime, a journal published by the Australian War Memorial: N Steel, ‘What if…? Imagine the Gallipoli landings on 25 April 1915 had succeeded—what then?’ (Wartime, 38, 2007, pp. 34–37), N Steel, ‘Heroic sacrifice’ (Wartime, 38, 2007, pp. 22–27).