THE WAY

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YEAR 9 HANDS-ON HISTORY

Year 9 History students have recently participated in a series of engaging, hands-on lessons as part of their study of Australians at War.

We were privileged to be loaned two artefact boxes from the Australian War Memorial, one focusing on World War I and the other on World War II. These collections contained a combination of original and reproduction items that allowed students to investigate history through the examination of authentic primary sources and historical objects.

Students had the opportunity to dress in a variety of military uniforms, including those worn by soldiers, nurses, sailors and members of the air force from both wars. They closely examined medals, postcards, newspapers, playing cards, letters, maps, ration cards and even an original World War I bullet. Other fascinating artefacts included Japanese jungle shoes and a range of personal items that helped bring the stories of the past to life.

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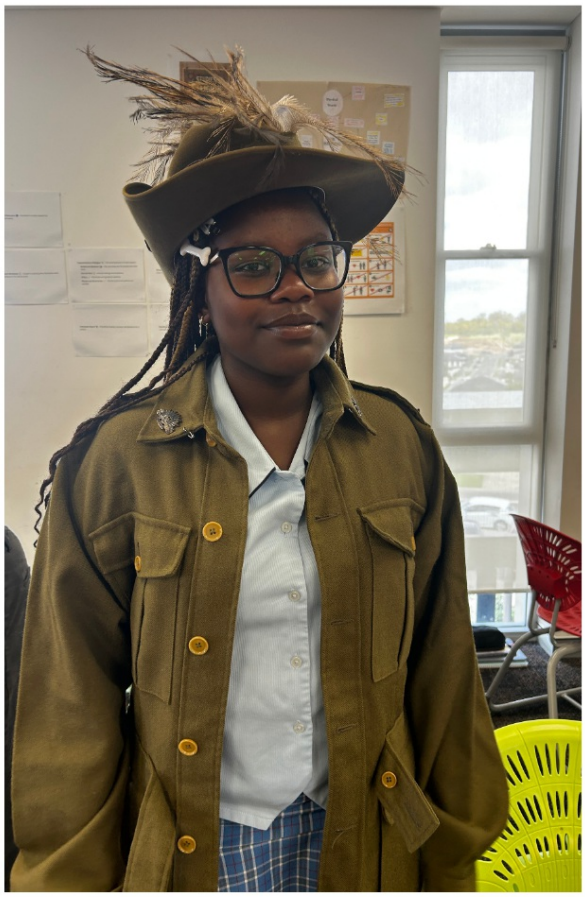



As part of the experience, students also learnt how servicemen spent their leisure time by playing a game of two-up, a popular pastime among Australian soldiers during wartime. Through handling artefacts and analysing primary sources, students gained a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices and experiences of Australians who served their nation.

The enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our Year 9 students throughout these lessons demonstrated that History is far more than learning dates and events. It is about investigating real people and the experiences that shaped their lives, helping students better understand the world around them and the events that have shaped modern Australia. These hands-on learning experiences highlighted the value of studying History and brought Australia's wartime past vividly to life.

We would like to thank the Australian War Memorial for providing these outstanding educational resources and helping our students connect with Australia's rich military history in such a meaningful and memorable way.

Mrs Michelle Pearson

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