

RICHARD REID

About Richard



Irish born and educated Dr Richard Reid worked for more than 40 years as a high school teacher, museum educator, historian and museum curator. Thirty of those years were spent in Canberra, the nation's capital, working for institutions such as the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum of Australia, the Senate and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. In 2011, he was the Senior Curator for the National Museum's exhibition on the Irish in Australia – 'Not just Ned'. Richard has written widely on the subject of Australia at war and of the story of the Irish in Australia, and in relation to both those subjects has led tours to Ireland, the old Western Front in France and Belgium, and to Gallipoli. Recently retired from the Australian Public service he is still involved in a major

archaeological and historical survey of the Anzac area on the Gallipoli peninsula and various projects on the emigration of the Irish to Australia during the 19th century. Among Richard's publications are *'a decent set of girls – The Irish Famine orphans of the Thomas Arbuthnot, 1849-1850'* (with Cheryl Mongan), *Farewell my Children: Irish Assisted Emigration to Australia, 1848-1870*, *Bomber Command – Australians in World War II*, and *Sinners, Saints and Settlers – a journey through Irish-Australia* (with Brendon Kelson).

His topics

[If you ever go across the sea to Ireland ... Realities of 19th century Ireland.](#)

Keynote address

Dr Arthur Colohan's 1940s song, 'Galway Bay', imagines an Ireland of soft landscapes, of fields worked by Irish speaking women, a place in which to dwell eternally watching the sun go down on Galway Bay. Hard is the emigrant soul that doesn't feel a catch in the throat listening to those unforgettable lyrics. But family historians also need to ask that more hard-headed question – what was the Ireland of my ancestors really like?

[Probably you have read of the fight for Bullycourt ... Ancestors on the Western Front, 1916-1918](#)

All

Little remains of the battlefields of the Western Front but cemeteries and memorials that follow the old trench lines as they snake across the landscape. Millions of Australians have an ancestor who fought in epic battles in France and Belgium between 1916 and 1918, and the survival of rich archival sources allow family historians to walk closely in the footsteps of the men of the Australian Imperial Force, catching glimpses of their personal tragedies and achievements.