



# What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

A primary school  
(Year 6)  
investigative  
activity into  
Weary Dunlop



Jack Chalke, Colonel Edward 'Weary' Dunlop and Captain Jacob Markowitz working on a thigh amputation, Chungkai, AWM ART91848

# Australian History Mysteries

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY MYSTERIES

## Primary Resources



Ryebuck Media is developing a set of 16 online interactive Australian History Mystery units for the Australian Curriculum: History for Years 3-6.

<http://www.australianhistorymysteries.info/casestudies/primary.php>

Each unit addresses one of the four key questions or major content areas in each of the years.

Each unit uses a variety of evidence, investigative activities and classroom strategies to both explore the key knowledge content and ideas, and also to develop the skills of historical literacy and inquiry.

They can be used as self-contained ways of achieving the history outcomes specified for each year level, and they **are exemplars of practical and effective classroom resources and methodology**.

The units are available on subscription, and subscribing schools can use the units online in the classroom, or at home, or in print form.

**In Year 6 the four key inquiry questions are:**

### Year 6: Australia as a nation

1. Why and how did Australia become a nation?

2. How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century to become more equal?

3. Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?

4. What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

The fourth question can be broken down further:

### Australian History Mysteries Case study curriculum relevance

Year level Primary school	Australian curriculum – history	Case study	Extension case studies
Year 6	What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?	The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts, sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coniston massacre — What happened at Coniston in 1928?</li><li>• What happened to ‘Smithy’?</li><li>• Snowy Hydro-Electric Scheme — A melting pot of different nations?</li></ul>



## Case Study Overview

In this unit we provide a model and sample ways in which students can investigate the contribution of groups and individuals to the development of Australia from the 1900s.

## Case study unit of work inquiry structure

The 5 activities in this unit as they appear on the Australian History Mysteries website are:

### Activity 1

Who is 'significant' in your family?  
(Concept starter)

### Activity 2

Introductory video overview of the unit

### Activity 3

Finding out about a significant group:

A — migrant workers on the Snowy Mountains Scheme

B — the Salvation Army

### Activity 4

Finding out about a significant individual:

A — Weary Dunlop

B — Dame Enid Lyons

### Activity 5

How to investigate a significant group or individual of your own choice.

## A significant individual

Here is a print version of Activity 4A in the Australian History Mysteries on-line unit, an investigation of the significant contribution of Weary Dunlop to Australian history.

To find out more about the Primary Australian History Mysteries and how to subscribe go to

[www.australianhistorymysteries.info](http://www.australianhistorymysteries.info)

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY MYSTERIES

## Primary Resources



# Australian History Mysteries

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY MYSTERIES

## Secondary Resources



# What contribution has Weary Dunlop made to the development of Australian society?



You will learn when you get a chance to watch the video in (Activity 2) on the website that Weary Dunlop was a doctor and soldier in World War 2. He became a prisoner of war. He had great qualities that made him a hero, and he made a great contribution to helping thousands of fellow prisoners during the war and for the rest of his life after the war.

But why was he a hero and a significant person in Australian history?

## Two statues

Your task is to find out what he did during the war and after, and decide why he was so significant in Australian history.

Here are two statues to him. One shows him in World War 2 (1939-1945), and the other at about the time he died, in 2003.

Look at these two statues and answer the questions about them:



- 1 What does it show?
- 2 How are the people dressed?
- 3 Who do you think these people might be?
- 4 The man at the back is Weary Dunlop. What is he doing?
- 5 What do you think is the message or meaning of this statue?

- 1 What does it show?
- 2 Describe the man.
- 3 Why do you think he has a red poppy in his lapel, in his hands and at his feet?
- 4 The man is Weary Dunlop. Why do you think people would create a statue to someone?
- 5 What do you think is the meaning or message of this statue?



## Your Task

Your task is to create a plaque to be attached to the two statues. The plaque has been started, but not finished. You have to include information to finish it. You have to look at Weary Dunlop's life and decide what to write on the plaque that helps people understand why he was so significant in Australian history both during World War 2 and afterwards.

You have a limit on the number of words you can use. Your explanation has to fit in this plaque.



**Weary Dunlop was**

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**He is significant in Australian history because**

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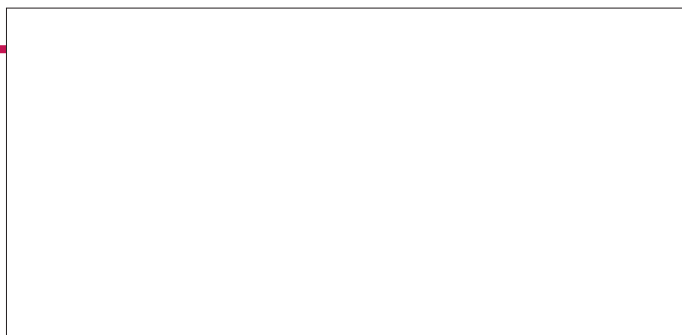
## Finding out about Weary Dunlop

Here are some facts about Weary Dunlop. Read each one, then choose the best image that shows each fact.  
Choose the images from the **Images File on page 9**.

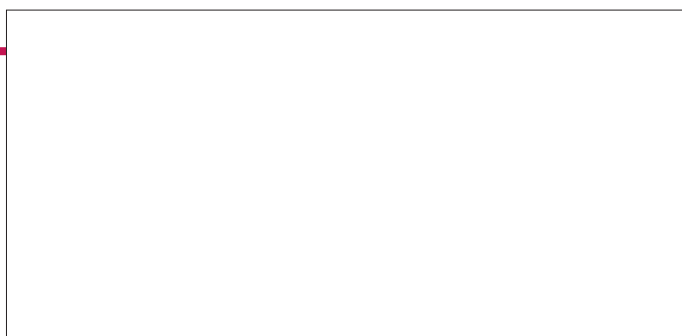
### Facts about Weary Dunlop

### An image showing this fact

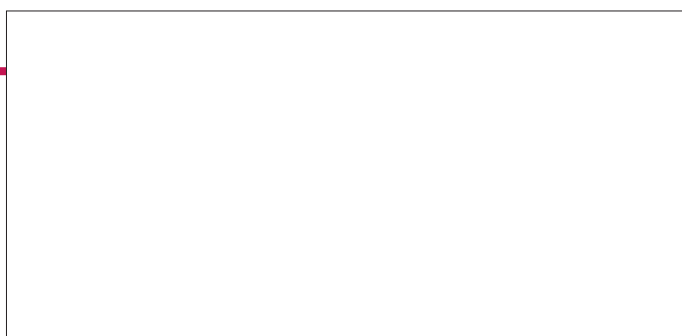
**1** Weary Dunlop was born in country Victoria.



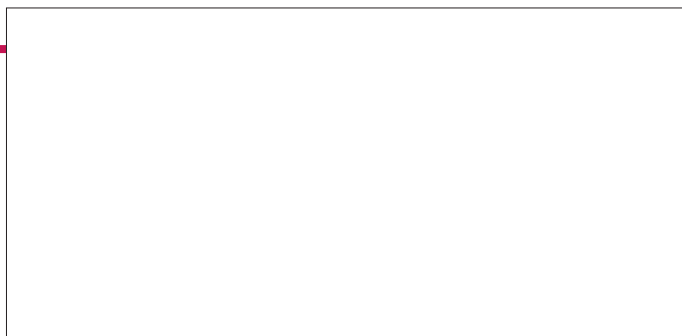
**2** He was active and good at sport.



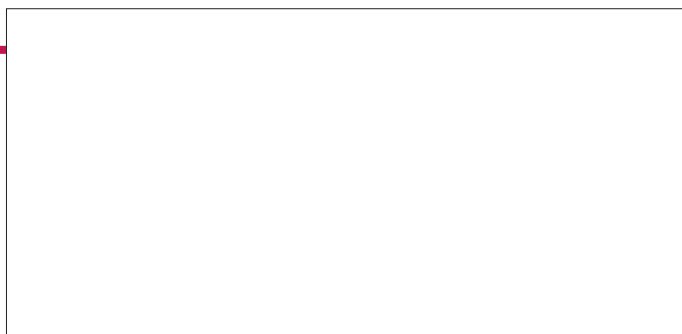
**3** He was OK at school, but decided he wanted to be a doctor.



**4** He qualified as a doctor and went to England. In 1939 war broke out and he joined the Australian Army.



**5** He was sent to war, and captured with 30,000 other Australians when Japan invaded Malaya, Singapore and Java (Indonesia) in December 1941.



## Facts about Weary Dunlop

## An image showing this fact

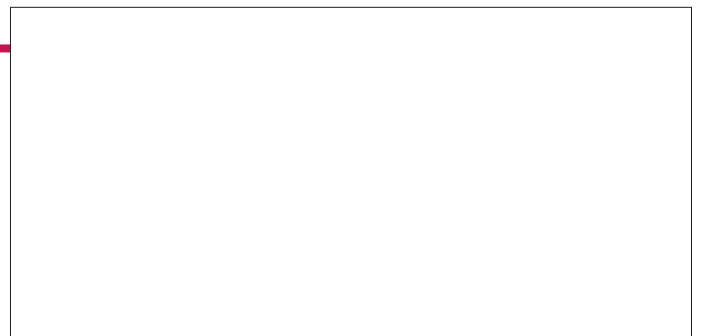
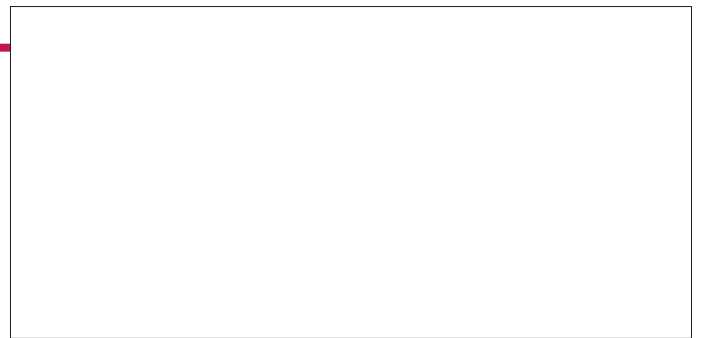
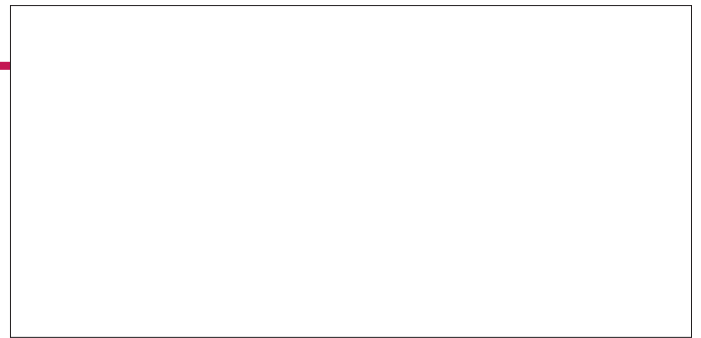
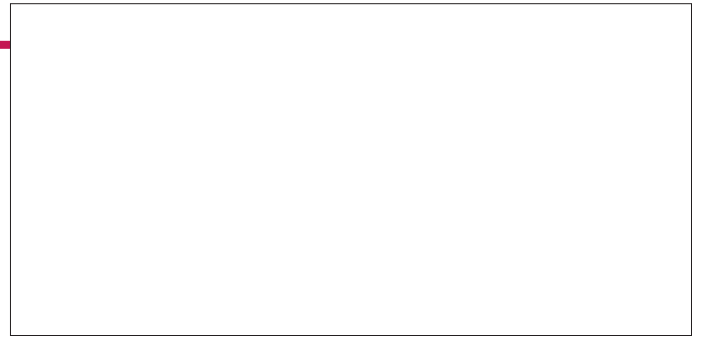
**6** He was one of the thousands of prisoners of war (POW) from several countries together with local workers who were forced to build a railway line through the jungle between Thailand and Burma.

**7** The conditions for these workers were terrible, with little food, poor equipment for digging and carrying and breaking rocks, diseases, a harsh climate, and little medical care.

**8** The starving and sick prisoners were often bashed and threatened by guards to make them work harder.

**9** The Japanese tried to make the sick prisoners work, and Weary tried to protect them and keep them in hospital. This meant he was often bashed himself for standing up to the guards.

**10** He and other doctors who were also prisoners of war provided all the medical care they could in terrible conditions, and with very little proper medical equipment or supplies. Thousands of men died (about 1 in 3 of those taken prisoner), but thousands more were helped and saved by these medical soldiers.



## Facts about Weary Dunlop

## An image showing this fact

**11** Weary and the other prisoners who survived were finally freed when Japan was defeated in 1945.

**12** Weary returned to being a doctor in Australia, and after the war continued to help POWs who were still suffering from the effects of their brutal treatment during the war.

**13** When people found out about how he and other doctors had looked after their fellow prisoners, Weary was acknowledged a hero.

**14** He continued to help former prisoners, and travelled around Asia helping local people.

**15** After he died several statues were made so that we could continue to commemorate and remember him.

Cut out an appropriate image to go with each statement.

Now use this information to create your plaque to go with the two statues.



## Image bank:



Ryebuck Media



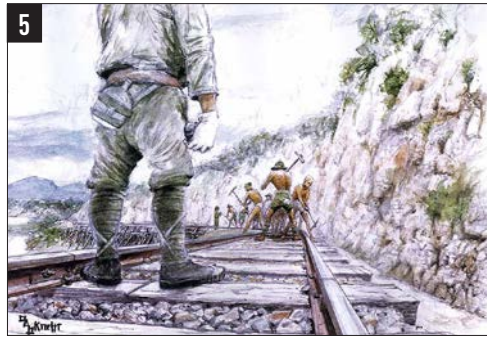
Sue Ebury, *Weary, King of the River*,  
The Miegunyah Press, 2009



AWM



Museum Victoria



Australian Government



Australian Government



IWM



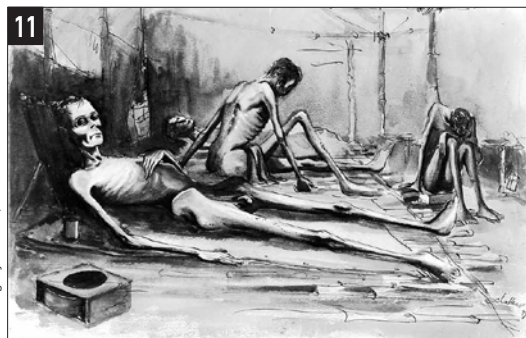
AWM



Ryebuck Media



Sue Ebury, *Weary, King of the River*,  
The Miegunyah Press, 2009



AWM



AWM



AWM



AWM



Sue Ebury, *Weary, King of the River*,  
The Miegunyah Press, 2009

Click on images to enlarge.

## ACTIVITY 5: Carrying out your own investigation



You will probably want to research a group or individual of your own choice, and see how he or she or they contributed to Australian history.

To do this you need to gather information on these aspects in order to be able to explain about your group or individual, and how what they did was significant for Australia.

Use this guide for your own research, and then complete the four statements at the bottom, using the information you have gathered.

ASPECT	YOUR NOTES
PERSON/GROUP: Who they were	
LOCATION: Where they were located	
TIME: When they lived	
FACTS: What they did	
METHODS: How they did what they did	
REASONS OR MOTIVATION: Why they did it	
EFFECTS OF WHAT THEY DID: Impacts	
EVALUATION OR ASSESSMENT: Significance	
<b>CONCLUSION/PRESENTATION:</b>	
The group/individual was Their contribution was This was significant or important because We now acknowledge them because	

You can see other examples of how to research a significant group or individual at the Australian History Mysteries site [www.australianhistorymysteries.info](http://www.australianhistorymysteries.info)

You can find out more about Weary Dunlop at the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation site at [www.siredwarddunlop.org.au](http://www.siredwarddunlop.org.au)

