

Weary Dunlop Swinburne Scholarship Essay 2016
*The significance of the life of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop
in respect of community service*

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"The quiet lion" as they would call Edward, during the Second World War had lived a remarkable life. Inspiring the whole nation of Australia and others, Weary accomplished and conquered the impossible as he lived through war itself. The memorable fact about Edward Dunlop is that he had a noble heart for helping others and a humble spirit that never gave up, regardless of the circumstances. Weary made a significant impact in the lives of many in our community.

Edward's mission in life was to do everything in his power to serve our community. Through Weary's life story we know he had a profound understanding of the importance of volunteering. Community service and volunteering go hand in hand - both intend to serve and help people, although volunteers can be rewarded and receive an honorarium or stipend as recognition for their voluntary work (Volunteering Australia 2016).

Some time before World War II, Weary's involvement in community service had started. Whilst studying medicine at the University of Melbourne, Edward volunteered to be part of the rugby union team, the Wallabies. He was to become the only Victorian in the Australian Rugby Union Hall of Fame (Australian Government 2016). Dunlop was also so passionate about medicine that he went to England to take up postgraduate studies in 1939 and became a specialist surgeon.

During that time, the Second World War broke out and Weary willingly volunteered to go to war in the Second Australian Imperial Force. This was the name given to all volunteer personnel in the Australian Army. Edward served in the Australian Army Medical Corps, when he became a prisoner of war. In 1945 the war ended and Weary left on the last Australian flight out of Thailand (Australian Government 2016).

Weary was ultimately rewarded for his service to our country and received full recognition from the Australian Government. He was a leader in the Australian community and an advocate for improving the country's relationship with South East Asia (Australian Government 2016). He also developed many community partnerships and in 1985 he established the "Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation" (Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation 2016).

Sir Edward's Foundation offers great benefits to the Australian community. Their mission is to improve the quality of life of returned service personnel, to facilitate research and promote Veterans' well being (Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation 2016). The Foundation awards grants to research projects across Victoria and supports a University of Melbourne senior medical research position.

In 1993 Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop died. His funeral was held at St Paul's Cathedral and an estimated 10,000 people attended this noteworthy event (Australian Government 2016). In 1995 funds were raised through a Weary Dunlop Statue Appeal and Premier Jeff Kennett unveiled the Weary Dunlop Statue on 15 August 1995 (University of Melbourne 2008).

Weary's moving life story has completely impacted my view on life. The legacy of serving the community has been passed on, not only to his family but also to all generations to come. Sir Edward Dunlop is a big hero, an encouraging person who chased after his calling with no fear of holding back. He certainly lived an honorable life touching and moving thousands with his life story.