

## Task for The Garret: *Finding Eliza*

### Storytelling and national identity

- Are these myths based on any 'real' historical events?
  - **The Bush:** White pioneers did gradually move out into country areas during the nineteenth century.
  - **Anzac:** The Anzac myth is based on certain 'real' historical events (e.g. the landing at Gallipoli)
- Who are the characters featured in the myths?
  - **The Bush:** Bush workers included drovers, stockmen, shearers, fencers and so on. However, over time, the focus changed to landowners (farmers, pastoralists).
  - **Anzac:** Soldiers from the First World War, especially members of the [First Australian Imperial Force](#).
- Who first created the Bush myth?
  - The myth of the **Bush** was created by Sydney radicals in the 1890s ([Paterson](#), [Lawson](#), [The Bulletin](#) magazine.)
- Who first created the Anzac myth?
  - The **Anzac** myth was created by [C.W. Bean](#), the official Australian war historian.
- How are the myths endlessly recycled?
  - **The Bush:** Through films ([The Man from Snowy River](#)), books ([Capricornia](#) by [Xavier Herbert](#)), poems ([Judith Wright's 'Bullocky'](#)) and newspaper reports.
  - **Anzac:** Through films ([Gallipoli](#)), Anzac Day ceremonies, displays at the Australian War Museum, political speeches, the RSL.
- Whose interest is served by these myths?
  - **The Bush:** Rural people and especially large property owners.
  - **Anzac:** The Australian Defence Force, soldiers, politicians who support the expansion of the military.
- What [stereotypes](#) have been created to accompany the myth of the Bush and the myth of the Anzacs? (A stereotype is a one-dimensional representation of a certain group.)
  - The swagman
  - The bushman-soldier
- What icons are associated with the myths?
  - [R.M Williams](#)
  - [Simpson and his donkey](#)
- What attitudes, values and beliefs are promoted by the myths?
  - **The Bush:** development of country, hard-work, toughness and endurance.
  - **Anzac:** bravery, persistence, loyalty to flag and country.

However, as Richard White says, this version of an Australian national identity is not 'the truth' but rather a construction.

The big question, then, is who is excluded from this version? How can excluded Australians challenge the national identity constructed by these two myths? Can you think of any examples?

- Those excluded from this version of the national story based on the myths of the Bush and Anzac include women, Indigenous people and non-Anglo-Saxon Australians.

What connection do those excluded from the dominant version of an Australian national identity have with Larissa Behrendt's purpose in *Finding Eliza*?

- Larissa Behrendt has set out to show that Eliza Fraser's story is not a true history but rather a strategy to promote the colonial occupation of Australia.