

General Sir John Monash, master of the battlefield – an appreciation

Ashley Ekins



Ashley Ekins is head of the Military History Section at the Australian War Memorial where he has worked as a military historian for more than 27 years. A graduate of the University of Adelaide, he specialises in the history of the First World War and has published widely on the role of Australian soldiers in the Great War. His publications on the First World War include: *1918 Year of Victory: the end of the Great War and the shaping of history* (ed., 2010, runner-up for the Templer Medal); and *War Wounds: medicine and the trauma of conflict* (ed. with Elizabeth Stewart, 2011). His book, *Gallipoli: a ridge too far* (ed., 2013, second, revised edition 2015), is a multinational study of the pivotal battles of August 1915. Ashley is also an authority on Australian military involvement in the Vietnam War. As an author of the Australian official histories, he has written extensively on Australian Army ground operations in Vietnam. He researched and wrote two volumes of the official history: *On the Offensive: the Australian Army in the Vietnam War, 1967–1968* (co-authored with the late Dr Ian McNeill, 2003); and *Fighting to the Finish: the Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1968–1975* (2012).