



## **BEYOND GALLIPOLI – BION AND HIS LEGACY**

War brings destruction but from it new thought and ideas emerge.

Within a year of the Gallipoli landing, as reports of shell shocked soldiers reached them, it became clear to Australians that this war was unlike any other known. Over the next few years terms such as 'malingerer' gave way to a new disorder 'shell shock', 'war neurasthenia' and finally 'war neurosis', as medical practitioners sought to understand soldiers from the field whose minds had collapsed.

In his memoirs (The Long Weekend) and war diaries W R Bion struggled to articulate his mental experience of war – an apt lens through which we can view the invisible wounds of war and their treatment. The creativity of Bion's writings have revolutionised psychoanalytic thought.

**This morning is open to all with an interest in Bion and the aftermath of war**

**Venue: the VAPP building at 18 Erin St Richmond.**

**Fee: \$80 includes morning tea and lunch (Pay on the day)**

**To register interest: Contact Mary Good [maryhelengood@gmail.com](mailto:maryhelengood@gmail.com)**

### **The Program:**

#### **9.00am Registration and refreshments**

9.15am – 10am **Christine Brett Vickers** talks as an historian and as a psychotherapist about Bion, and the way his experience of a new form of war with his subsequent work with soldiers from the field contributed to his theory of mind.

10.00am – 10.30am **Allan Shafer** shares his thoughts about the development of Bion's ideas and how they are applied to organisations today.

#### **10.30-11am Morning Tea**

11.00am – 11.30am **David Kruse** will talk about how groups are used today in rehabilitating servicemen and women suffering from PTSD

11.30am – 12.30pm Time for reflection on the morning's presentations.

12.30 – 1.30pm Lunch

**Christine Brett Vickers** is an historian and psychoanalytic psychotherapist who has also trained in group psychotherapy.

**Allan Shafer** is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist who works with individuals and has an additional expertise in organisational and group dynamics using Bion's theories.

**David Kruse** is a psychiatrist and group psychotherapist at the Psychological Trauma and Recovery Service, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.