A crowd of thousands, it was claimed, dressed in their Sunday best looked on. Construction of the house was completed by ‘bedtime’. As the official souvenir booklet of the event put it, ‘Mt Hawthorn was en fête...’ all that day.

The festivities were repeated when the cottage was officially opened by the Premier and Mrs Scadden on April 19th 1916 and handed over to the returned Anzac the following day - a Sunday. There was more celebrating then, including bands, cadets and Girl Guides. A flag pole had been erected in the front garden upon which the Australian flag - bearing the motto ‘ANZAC’ - was to be hoisted each Anzac Day at 4.30am, the time of the first landing at Gallipoli.

Anzac Cottage was to house a returned Gallipoli digger, his family and descendants as long as they needed, to ensure that the cottage would remain for all time as a monument to what Lord Kitchener had termed “A remarkable record of valour”.

By 1991, the cottage had become dilapidated and passed into the hands of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, W.A. branch. In cooperation with the Mt Hawthorn Anzac Cottage Restoration Group and with a grant from the Lotteries Commission, added to by the generosity of many donors, the V.V.A.A.W.A has restored the building as closely as possible to its original condition.

In 2006 the cottage was gifted to the Town of Vincent and continues to be the headquarters of the V.V.A.A.W.A. Local schools and other interested groups may visit the cottage by prior arrangement.

Anzac Cottage has been classified by the National Trust, recognised by the WA Heritage Council and is included in the Register of the National Estate. As well as having outstanding local, State and National heritage significance, it is one of the country’s earliest World War 1 memorials and perhaps unique of Australia’s many war memorials.