My story

Jan Mau

*In 2016, just after ANZAC Day, I had an idea for a painting where the battlefield of the Past, the Present, and the Future came together in a simple representation. It has taken a year to complete it. Not because of the painting’s technical difficulties – it’s a simple painting. One which could be described as ‘naïve’ in style. No the difficulty lay in the content. How could I ‘talk’ to those soldiers and let them know that they are not forgotten? How could I touch on the complacency that creeps in over the years? How could I show that the lives of future generations appreciate the costly sacrifices they made? The picture I have painted is my attempt to convey all of these things.*

*I have not been able to put a title on this painting. All I know, is how my heart feels and the emotions I felt as I worked on this painting. I wish I could reach out to one of those soldiers, as the little girl is doing in the painting. She represents the future, secured by those who fought. The giving of the red poppy is a symbol of our deep heartfelt appreciation for all they endured, for so many.*

*As I look at this scene, I wonder … in painting it, have I perhaps painted myself – the child extending the poppy and saying ‘thank you’. Perhaps the child is you?*

*“Lest we forget”*