



ANZAC Day – Saturday 25 April 2015



APRIL 2015

Compliments of
GREG PIPER MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE





Humility and heroism

ANZAC Day is almost upon us again, and this year marks a very special commemoration: the 100th anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Interestingly, as the years go by, our fascination with the Anzac story seems to grow. The times and values that drove those young men to enlist and lay down their lives for a principle seem so removed from modern Australia – although, perhaps not when you look to the commitment of our contemporary servicemen and women in conflict zones around the world.

We do have a lot to learn from the ANZACs: about selflessness, camaraderie and dedication to a cause. Those youthful, wide-eyed men carried high expectations and a heavy burden on their young shoulders, and their actions did not disappoint.

They demonstrate to us that ordinary people can be heroes and make a difference to the lives of others. They can't have known their gallantry and deeds would become part of a national legend, but that very humility is why we remember them with such affection and reverence 100 years later.



Greg Piper

Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie

COVER: English-born John Simpson Kirkpatrick, also known as Jack Simpson, was a stretcher bearer with the ANZACs. He was in the first landings on April 25, 1915 and on that first night took a donkey and carried the wounded from the battle line. He continued this work for 3½ weeks, often under fire, until he was killed. Today Simpson and his Donkey, known as Abdul, Murphy or Duffy, is a legend of Gallipoli.

WORLD WAR I

THE LAST ANZACS

The many thousands of men who fought and died at Gallipoli helped forge an Australian legend which endures today.



But two Diggers became reluctant heroes later in life for their longevity and a nation's last links to the Gallipoli campaign. Albert (Ted) Matthews and Alec Campbell hold a special place in Australian history – they were the last ANZACs.

Mr Matthews (right) was the last veteran of the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 – ANZAC Day. He died in his sleep on 9 December 1997, aged 101 years.



Early in the landing, Ted Matthews was struck in the chest by shrapnel. A thick pocket-book, given to him by his mother, saved his life. After the Battle of Gallipoli, he went on to fight on the Western Front.



Then on 16 May 2002, Australia lost Alec Campbell (left), aged 103 – the last of a brave breed of men who fought at Gallipoli. Alec Campbell was only

16 (see photo at top) when he enlisted in Launceston straight from school in June 1915. He arrived at Gallipoli in November 1915 with the 15th Battalion and was there through to the evacuation. Older Diggers nicknamed him "The Kid". He later became very ill and was discharged in August 1916.

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THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

Ready to fight for 'King and Country'

Just 16 words on a crumpled sheet of paper is all it took for Frederick Ball's parents to give him their blessing to enlist in the army and march off to fight in the First World War.

The letter of consent, signed by William and Annie Ball of Creek Road, Boolaroo, was his ticket to what so many believed would be a big adventure, and an assurance that their son Fred (pictured) would be accepted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

He was 20 years and 5 months old, well above the legal age of enlistment of 18, when he joined on 18 July 1915 with the letter leaving no doubt that Fred and his family were ready and willing to fight for "King and Country".

A locomotive fireman prior to enlisting, Fred arrived in Egypt with the 30th

Emmarville
Creek Rd
Boolaroo

We the undersigned do hereby give our consent
to our son Frederick Walter Ball to enlist

William Edward Ball J P
Annie Maria Ball



Battalion reinforcements just as the Gallipoli campaign was ending. News of the campaign filtered back to Australia and inspired many young men to join.

Troops were soon sent to the Western Front. Throughout 1916, Fred had stints in hospital with trench feet and a hernia. He battled on with the 30th Battalion through 1917 and on 7 October that year he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

Just two weeks later, on 23 October 1917, LCpl Frederick Walter Ball of Boolaroo was killed in action in Ypres, Belgium. Lest We Forget.

Standards changed as war took toll

During the course of the First World War standards for age, minimum height and minimum chest measurement for enlistment in the AIF were altered. The requirements in August 1914 were 18-35 years, height of 5ft 6in and chest measurement of 34 inches. In June 1915 the age range and minimum height requirements were changed to 18-45 years and 5ft 2in, with the minimum height being lowered again to 5ft in April 1917. During the first year of the war approximately 33 per cent of all volunteers were rejected. However, with relaxation of physical standards of age and height, as well as dental and ophthalmic fitness, previously ineligible men became eligible for enlistment – Source: Australian War Memorial





COMMEMORATING THE CENTEN



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

The Gallipoli campaign in 1915 was a defining moment in Australia's character and development as a young nation.

The attack was a strategy aimed at seizing the Dardanelles and gaining an advantage in World War I by capturing Constantinople, capital of Turkey (now Istanbul). More than 20,000 Australians and New Zealanders and servicemen from other countries, including British and French soldiers, went ashore at the Gallipoli Peninsula on that first day.

The day of the dawn landings – 25 April – became a national holiday known as ANZAC Day.

28 JUNE 1914

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, triggers a diplomatic crisis which soon spreads around the world.

4 AUGUST 1914

Great Britain declares war on Germany and the First World War (also known as The Great War) starts. Australia pledges a force of 20,000.

10 AUGUST 1914

Voluntary recruitment for Australian Imperial Force (AIF) starts.

1 NOVEMBER 1914

The First Division of the AIF sails from Albany, Western Australia, for Egypt.

10 JANUARY 1915

Soldiers of 11th Battalion, AIF, pose on the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) near Mena camp four months before the landing at Gallipoli. This is a well known and very popular photo.

20 APRIL 1915

More than 200 ships assemble in the harbour at Mudros, Lemnos, in preparation for the British and French invasion of Turkey.

25 APRIL 1915

Australian forces involved in the dawn landing at ANZAC Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. At 4.30am the invasion starts. British, Australian and New Zealand forces, and French (at the Turkish mainland at Kum Kale) land. The British are confined to two small pockets of land on the tip of the peninsula at Cape Helles and the ANZACs to a strip of rugged country further up the peninsula inland of Ari Burnu Point (ANZAC Cove).

19 MAY 1915

Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick, of "Simpson and his Donkey", fame killed by machine gun fire.

19 MAY 1915

Lance Corporal Albert Jacka, 14th Battalion, AIF, becomes the first Australian to win the Victoria Cross in World War I for his action in battle.



ARY OF THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

ANZAC

1915-2015

24 MAY 1915

Formal truce to bury the dead.

6-9 AUGUST 1915

Battle of Lone Pine – Australians are awarded seven Victoria Crosses (five of them on one day, 9 August). Australian casualties at Lone Pine were more than 2,000 men while the Turks estimated losses at 6,930.

7 AUGUST 1915

Charge of Australian Light Horse Brigade at the Nek.

22 NOVEMBER 1915

Field Marshal Lord Kitchener advises Gallipoli should be evacuated – a massive task involving 93,000 troops, 200 guns and more than 5,000 animals, stores and ammunition.

19-20 DECEMBER 1915

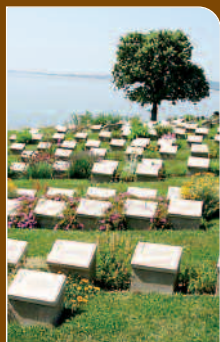
Evacuation of Australian and Allied forces from ANZAC Cove and Suvla Bay. By the time of evacuation close to 44,000 allied troops have been killed from a total of almost 300,000 casualties. Evacuation of British troops from Cape Helles takes place on 8-9 January 1916, ending the campaign.

GALLIPOLI CASUALTIES

The eight-month-long Gallipoli campaign involved a total of about one million men from both sides.

Approximately 469,000 British Empire soldiers and about 500,000 Turkish soldiers

served on Gallipoli. The Allied force included between 50,000 and 60,000 Australians and 8,556 New Zealanders.



	KILLED	WOUNDED	TOTAL
Ottoman Empire	86,692	164,617	251,309
United Kingdom	21,255	52,230	73,485
France	9,798	17,371	27,169
Australia	8,709	19,441	28,150
New Zealand	2,721	4,752	7,473
British India	1,358	3,421	4,779
Newfoundland	49	93	142
Total Allies	43,890	97,308	141,198

Information: Dept Veterans' Affairs

The above table does not include illness – many soldiers became sick due to the unsanitary conditions, especially from enteric fever, dysentery and diarrhoea. It is estimated that at least 145,000 Allied soldiers became ill during the campaign and about 64,000 Turkish servicemen.





War is over – 70 years later

He's known far and wide as the Dancing Man – captured in an iconic photograph pirouetting his way down Sydney's Elizabeth Street to celebrate the end of World War Two.

This year marks 70 years since the end of World War Two when Japan surrendered on 15 August, 1945.

The Dancing Man – since identified as the late Sydney barrister Frank McAlary QC – joined thousands in the ticker-taped streets to celebrate the end of hostilities which had raged since 1939.

This day became known in Australia as Victory in the Pacific Day (also known as Victory over Japan Day, VJ Day or VJ Day).

Lost at sea

They fought and died together in the name of freedom. A crew of nine men – all young and fit and keen – went missing on a mission 70 years ago this year. They were never found.

The crew was part of 20 Squadron and would have spent time at Rathmines training in the Catalina aircraft. They made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of Australia in World War Two. The Catalina “flying boat” aircraft with Donald Storrie and eight others aboard failed to return from a mine-laying mission to the Pescadores Islands and was posted missing from Darwin on 7 March 1945.

The plane (A24-203) reportedly went down in bad weather and despite extensive search and rescue missions it was never recovered. News of the lost Catalina hit the tight-knit flying boat squadrons hard – from the Top End through to the base at Rathmines.



Donald Storrie (left) and 'Rus' Jones relax on the fuselage of a 20 Squadron Catalina in Darwin Harbour.

Accidents took their

Training accidents and mishaps were all part of life at Rathmines and every day hundreds of men risked their safety as part of the sea plane squadrons.

Sergeant Thomas Frederick (Tommy) Pickering, of 9 Squadron, RAAF, was one of those men who died in the line of duty at Rathmines.

He was killed on 5 March 1942 in a training accident on Lake

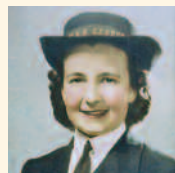
Macquarie. The RAAF accident report states: “While approaching to land at 1153 hours, Sgt T.F. Pickering was alighting on Lake Macquarie, NSW, when the aircraft nosed in and fell over on its back. Sgt Pickering was killed and AC1 W.F. McConnell was seriously injured.”

The Seagull aircraft was assessed as beyond economical repair.

in fight for freedom



The crew of No. 20 Squadron RAAF, Consolidated Catalina A24-203 which, under the command of Pilot Officer Ross Schulz, failed to return from a mission on the night of 7 March 1945. Identified, left to right, back row: Warrant Officer William 'Snow' Bates, aged 34 years; Sergeant Walter 'Scottie' Scott, 20; Flight Sergeant William (Bill) Rowe, 32; Sergeant Alfred 'Rus' Jones, 21; Sergeant Donald (Don) Storrie, 25; (front) Warrant Officer (WO) James 'Reg' Cleworth, of Sandringham, Vic, 22; Warrant Officer (later Pilot Officer) Malcolm 'Ron' Merrett, 24; Warrant Officer (later Pilot Officer) Ross Schulz, 21, and Flying Officer Keith Caulley, 22.



STORRIES: Don, Merle and Alva.

None of the crew have any known grave and are all listed on the Labuan Memorial in Saba, Malaysia.

Don Storrie enlisted on 29 November 1940 as an engineer and was stationed at Laverton, Point Cook and Wagga, where his wife Alma was still living during the war.

He transferred to Liberators and then to the Catalina base at Rathmines, and also the Batchelor RAAF Air Base in the Northern Territory.

The Storrie family made a significant contribution to the war. Donald's two

sisters – Merle and Alva – both served along with their older brother Stanley.

Leading Women's Royal Australian Navy Supply Assistant Merle Storrie enlisted on 29 March 1943 and served aboard *HMAS Lonsdale*. She was discharged on 9 January 1946.

Lieutenant Alva Storrie, Australian Army Nursing Service, enlisted on 3 March 1942 and nursed at Adelaide River, NT and Tablelands Hospital, Qld. She was discharged on 22 April 1947.

toll at Rathmines

Corporal S. Cummings was awarded the British Empire Medal for his expertise in salvaging a number of aircraft which crashed at Rathmines and beyond.

Cpl Cummings salvaged the aircraft in which Sgt Pickering died.

Only one Catalina (A24-39) crashed on a training exercise, and it had tragic consequences for seven crew members who died.

A Seagull crashed in 1943 when a hatch failed to close after an engine failure. It landed safely but then sank to the bottom of Lake Macquarie. Cpl Cummings also salvaged this plane.

RIGHT: Sgt Tommy Pickering who was killed in a training accident at Rathmines.





Remembering an uncle lost at Gallipoli



Reading through the stories in last year's edition of this Anzac Day booklet, Wangi resident Marlene Boehmer began to wonder about the uncle she had lost at Gallipoli.

Mrs Boehmer's father had shown her the inscription to his older brother, Private Robert Stewart, on the Adamstown war memorial when she was a young girl, but she had never known much about his war story.

Turning to the website *Mapping Our Anzacs*, she was thrilled to find 44 pages of letters and documents, tracing his path from enlistment as

a 20-year-old to his landing on Gallipoli on the first day of the campaign, his tragic death just two days later, and the removal of his remains to a dedicated grave on the peninsula in 1921.

Physically unable to visit the grave herself, Mrs Boehmer (pictured) has arranged through the office of Greg Piper and the NSW branch of the RSL for someone travelling to Gallipoli for this year's 100th anniversary commemoration to place a poppy on Pte Stewart's grave on her behalf. "I am thrilled," she says. "It will be a wonderful gesture after all these years."

2015 ANZAC Day activities in the region

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

- 5.15am: Assemble cnr Main Rd and Park St for march to Speers Point Cenotaph.
- 6.00am: Dawn Service at Speers Point Cenotaph.

CARDIFF

- 4.45am: Assemble cnr Main Rd and Macquarie Rd. March steps off at 5am.
- 5.15am: Dawn Service at Cardiff RSL Cenotaph. Breakfast afterwards. Pre-purchase tickets at club.

DOYALSON-WYEE

- 5.00am: Dawn Service at the Doyalson-Wyee RSL Club. Breakfast afterwards.
- 8.30am: March steps off from the Baptist Church in Wyee Rd for the War Memorial at the RSL Club. Form up at 8am.
- 9.00am: ANZAC Commemoration Service at the War Memorial. Service will be inside the club if inclement weather.

MORISSET

- 6.00am: Dawn Service at the Morisset Country Club. Breakfast afterwards.
- 10.00am: March from the railway station to the Morisset Country Club. Form up at 9.40am.
- 10.15am (approx): ANZAC Service at the Country Club.

RATHMINES

- 1.40pm: March from the bowling club.
- 2.00pm: ANZAC Service at the Rathmines Catalina Memorial.

RYHOPE

- 9.00am: ANZAC Service at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope.

TERALBA

- 7.40am: Assemble in ANZAC Parade for march to the War Memorial.
- 8.00am: Service at the Teralba War Memorial in ANZAC Park.

TORONTO

- 6.00am: Dawn Service in Goffet Park. Breakfast available afterwards at Toronto Diggers Club – gold coin donation.
- 11.10am: March steps off from Toronto Post Office to the War Memorial in Goffet Park. Form up 10.55am outside the Toronto Diggers Club.
- 11.30am: ANZAC Service at the War Memorial in Goffet Park, Brighton Ave. March back to Toronto Diggers Club after service.

WANGI WANGI

- 5.30am: Dawn Service at the War Memorial at Wangi RSL Club. Breakfast afterwards.
- 10.00am: March steps off in Puna Rd for the War Memorial. Assemble and form up at 9.30am. ANZAC Service at the Memorial to follow march. A range of military vehicles will be on display.

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues have been supplied by various RSL Sub-branch officials. Care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included and were correct at the time of publication. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-branch.