ANZAC DAY
AT THE GALLIPOLI CLUB

The Gallipoli Club had a lively celebration of the 101st anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

After the march ended the Club hosted a reunion lunch for the stalwarts of the 2/4th Australia Infantry Battalion Association led by their President, Alf Carpenter.

The Gallipoli Club has been home base to the 2/4th Battalion for decades as its members took over its running in the 1960s from the aging Gallipoli veterans who were the Club founders.

Formed on November 3, 1939 at Ingleburn Camp NSW, the quickly trained 2/4th sailed on the Strathnaver for Palestine on January 10, 1940. These fast learners fought valiantly in North Africa and Greece before the might of the German war machine forced them back to Crete. After the Battle of Crete in May 1941, those who were liberated returned to Palestine and were later assigned to the Northern Territory in preparation for the defence of Darwin. Later they served in Papua New Guinea fighting their way to the north western region around Wewak.

In all, 109 members were killed in action, 237 wounded and 195 taken prisoner of war. The battalion was disbanded on October 12, 1945 but its memory has been kept alive by the strong Battalion Association.

TRADING HOURS

Dumpling Bar @ Loftus
MONDAY - SUNDAY: 12.00 noon - 9.00pm
THURSDAY - FRIDAY: 12.00 noon - 10.00pm

North Ocean Chinese Restaurant
LUNCH: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 12 noon - 3.00pm
DINNER: MONDAY - SUNDAY: 5.00pm - 9.00pm
(FRIDAY open till 10.00pm)
Editorial...

This edition commemorates one of the major battles of World War Two, the Battle of Crete in May 1941. The 2/4th Battalion whose members served as the backbone of the Gallipoli Club for decades fought in this battle after superior German forces pushed the Australians out of Greece. Our article retells the story based on the files of the Australian War Memorial and the personal recollections of Club legend, the ninety-nine year old Alf Carpenter, plus the memoir, Blessed be the Olive Trees, written in the 1990s for his grandchildren by Gunner-Driver Lindsay Lawrence, my father. We also look at Alf’s remarkable history. The article notes the bravery of the people of Crete who fought the German invaders persistently and at great personal cost. To this day the people of Crete welcome Australian visitors with great warmth.

Bruce McEwan looks at the Gallipoli landing with its errors and slaughter and the high demands and low naval coverage that saw 2000 men die on the first day. He notes that figure would have been higher but for the men taking cover in abandoned Turkish trenches on the beach.

We move forward to 2016 and the latest Gallipoli Art Prize. The winner was the Chinese born Australian painter Jiawei Shen. The Club welcomed a large group to the announcement of the winner by Club Committee Member and Judge, John Robertson.
JIAWEI SHEN WINS
THE 2016 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE

A painting based on an iconic Gallipoli photograph in the Imperial War Museum in London won the 2016 Gallipoli Art Prize for Chinese born Australian painter Jiawei Shen from Bundeena, NSW.

He has won the $20,000 2016 Gallipoli Art Prize with his painting ‘Yeah, Mate’ (below) depicting an Australian soldier at Gallipoli carrying his wounded comrade.

Jiawei Shen’s winning work has the caption ‘At ANZAC Cove, an Australian bringing in a wounded comrade to hospital. The men were cracking jokes as they made their way down from the front.’

Jiawei Shen said he moved to Australia in 1989 and was granted citizenship in 1998.

"I share the memories of Gallipoli with every member of our nation, and am in tears when listening to Waltzing Matilda. As a professional history painter during the days of the 100th anniversary of the battle of Gallipoli, I painted this painting to do my duty," Jiawei Shen said.

He was born in Shanghai in 1948. Largely self-taught, he became a well-known artist in China in mid 1970s, during the Cultural Revolution era.

For his first two years in Australia he..."
supported himself financially by drawing portrait sketches for tourists at Darling Harbour. Since then he has completed several portrait commissions in Australia and overseas.

Jiawei Shen has three works in National Portrait Gallery including the portrait of the Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, and two in Parliament House including the portrait of Prime Minister John Howard. In China, he has fifteen works in the collections of the National Museum, the National Art Museum, and the National Military Museum. His portrait of the Pope Francis is in the Vatican art collection.

Jiawei’s paintings have been selected for the Archibald exhibition fourteen times and in 1997 he was runner-up for this prize. He won the People’s Choice Prize twice (2003, 2007) in the Salon des Refuse in the S.H. Ervin Gallery and the Sulman Prize in 2006.

“Shen is a history painter who was trained in the traditional atelier model and is a champion of skills and techniques that are gradually being eroded from contemporary art training and practice,” said Chief Judge, Jane Watters (the Director, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney) on behalf of the Gallipoli Art Prize judges.

“His winning painting is heroic in the very best sense without descending into the schmutz depictions of mateship and sacrifice so prevalent in other genres.”

Each year Australian, New Zealand and Turkish artists are invited to submit works to the Gallipoli Art Prize that reflect upon the themes of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship as expressed in the Gallipoli Club’s Creed. Artists can interpret the broad themes in relation to any armed conflict in which Australia has been involved from 1915 up to the present day. The works do not need to depict warfare.

“The Gallipoli Art prize continues to attract the support of the visual arts community who have once again responded with innovative works that preserve the best
of the ANZAC spirit,” Ms Watters said.

“The broad range of imagery represented in the Prize demonstrates the level of inquiry by the artists into the stories and people from not just the Gallipoli campaign but from other conflicts and also from daily life experiences.”

Judges also commended Sydney painter Geoff Harvey for his painting ‘Sister Kelly & The First Imperial Camel Corp Brigade’ (below) depicting Mena Camp in Egypt where many Australian Light Horsemen adapted their skills to working with camels. Geoff Harvey won the Gallipoli Art Prize in 2012 with a work entitled ‘Trench interment’.

Portrait of General Sir John Monash
by Peter Smeeth

Sister Kelly & the 1st Imperial Camel Corp Brigade
by Geoff Harvey
THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB CREED

We believe that within the community there exists an obligation for all to preserve the special qualities of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship which were personified by the heroes of the Gallipoli Campaign and bequeathed to all humanity as a foundation for perpetual peace and universal freedom.

Previous Winners

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<td>Margaret Hadfield</td>
<td>Ataturk’s Legacy</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Lianne Gough</td>
<td>Glorus Fallen</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Tom Carment</td>
<td>Max Carment, War Veteran (The last Portrait)</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Euan Macleod</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Raymond Arnold</td>
<td>The Dead March Here Today</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Hadyn Wilson</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Woven Connections
by the students from the John Colet School at Belrose
Gallipoli Landings -- The Essence of Courage

It is impossible to understand what the original Anzacs felt that awful morning of April 25, 1914, as they were taken in the pre-dawn darkness to a hostile foreign shore in 36 small lifeboats. They were clad in coarse, ill-fitting woollen uniforms, carried a bulky pack of rations on their backs and a metal water bottle and each was armed with a heavy Lee Enfield .303" rifle, a bayonet and 200 rounds of ammunition.

The lifeboats, only a few metres long and about two metres wide, were constructed of wood and sheet steel over a steel frame. They had rows of wooden bench seats and the troops had to pack in side by side up to six abreast.

Only a matter of weeks before at this time of day, these young men would have been just waking in their beds before going to work on farms, in offices or at a myriad of workplaces in cities, towns and rural areas. Their average age was 28 and they had passed stringent recruitment standards for fitness and competence. They had been given no training in beach landing techniques but each had been given a generous tot of navy rum: “To put fire in the blood!”

Here they were, either shivering with fear of the unknown or, conversely, nervously elated with anticipation of the fighting ahead. They had no premonition of the disaster about to unfold. During their short lifetimes most of them had not strayed far from their homes. Only a small number of the rural recruits would have visited their State capital and perhaps a handful of these young men had ever travelled overseas.

But here they were in foreign waters on the other side of the world being sent through the dark to an uncertain fate.
There was fear but also anticipation because this was an adventure above all normal expectation.

Their commanders had given them little information about what kind of reception they could expect on this foreign beach on a spur of land protecting the Dardanelles – in fact, most of the pre-battle strategic intelligence was poor and overly optimistic. Their commanders’ instructions were: “Hop out of your boat, rush to the shore, then make your way as fast as possible across the peninsula. There won’t be much resistance this will be over very quickly.”

Here they were, huddled together like human sardines, 48 young men crammed aboard each tiny ship’s lifeboat being towed by steam launches in a string of three or four to shallow water. The planners had them landing on the western shore of the Gallipoli Peninsula near Gaba Tepe. Instead, they were dragged to a narrow beach below a very steep hillside about two kilometres away where Turkish troops were entrenched above them.

They had no protection from even small arms fire. When they were about 50 metres from shore, they would cast off their tow ropes and start rowing to the beach. When the first lifeboats got into range the Turks began firing down on them. Machine gun and rifle fire flayed the lifeboats until they reached the beach where the steep hillside gave some protection. Few of the boats actually grounded on the slippery, rocky shore but the men jumped out anyway and, burdened by their gear, many drowned in water over their heads.

Those that struggled ashore in their wet uniforms remained cold and damp for hours after landing, but they got their rifles working and fought their way upwards towards the enemy. The Anzacs had their objectives but the maps provided were poor and lacked critical information.
information about Turkish positions.

Self-preservation became paramount under the constant Turkish fire. Abandoned enemy trenches were occupied but the 4,000 allies made little ground before being ordered to “dig in”. Ultimately, two Divisions of men (about 16,000) were put ashore this way. Precise casualties are not known but at least 2,000 Anzacs died on the first day.

Digging-in meant survival, and these brave exponents of “pick and shovel warfare” soon became known as “Diggers” – an expression first used on Australia’s goldfields,

The allied navies, which had failed badly in their attempt to breach the Dardanelles, also failed to provide the kind of support needed to assist the Anzac soldiers in their advance. Shelling from warships often fell short, killing and wounding the men trying to fight their way up to the heights of Anzac Cove (as the wrong landing beach became known).

The lifeboats continued to ferry men to shore after the first day but often men and boats were wiped out by Turkish artillery fire. Shrapnel (artillery shells that exploded over their targets and showered all beneath them with lethal shards of hot steel) caused a significant proportion of casualties offshore and on land.

The lifeboats also were used to take the wounded out to hospital ships and during the first few days were constantly rowing back and forth feeding the military chaos ashore, with men and supplies, and taking away its detritus.

This was the start of a humiliating military disaster where the defending Turkish were the clear winners.

The allied commanders never realised at the time that their incompetence had created a new breed of fighting man – one who could achieve objectives skilfully and fiercely, but who would now question orders that lacked reason or common sense.

The contingent from John Colet School at Belrose. The School is a long time supporter of the Gallipoli Art Prize through submitting a joint work by students.
The battle of Crete began in the second week of May 1941 with the island’s British, Commonwealth, and Greek garrison attacked by German airborne troops.

After one day of fighting, the Germans had suffered heavy casualties and the Allied troops were confident that they would defeat the invasion. The next day, through communication failures, Allied tactical hesitation and German offensive operations, Maleme airfield in western Crete fell, enabling the Germans to land reinforcements and overwhelm the defensive positions on the north of the island.

By the end of May, organised resistance had broken down. Germans hunted small groups of Allied soldiers abandoned by inadequate evacuation facilities and desperately trying to evade capture.

German and Italian troops had overrun Greece in less than three weeks in April. As the Axis forces drove the Allies south through the Peloponnese, Allied command realised that Crete must become a target for German invasion. From Crete, Axis naval and air forces would dominate the eastern Mediterranean.

Around ANZAC Day 1941 Allied forces withdrew from Greece. Some were evacuated to Alexandria but most got only as far as Crete and were used to reinforce the garrison.

"We were gunners without guns, we were stripped of our means to fight. The German airforce were relentless when attacking us. The Germans knew we were cornered with our backs to the sea and they were out to annihilate us." Gunner Driver Lindsay Lawrence (SX800) wrote of his last day on the Greek mainland in his memoir *Blessed Be the Olive Trees*. His unit the 2/3rd Field Regiment was evacuated to Suda Bay, Crete on the cruiser HMS Ajax.

These troops were battle weary and many had left their equipment behind. Lindsay Lawrence wrote of hauling a Bren gun up the side of the Ajax with a comrade struggling to bring up half a sandbag full of bullets, only to have a British officer throw both down into the sea. The stocks of munitions and materiel on the island were inadequate to resupply them. Poorly-armed and with minimal or no air or naval support, the soldiers faced an enemy fresh from victories across Europe.
One of those evacuated from Greece to Crete was Bernard Freyberg, General Commanding the New Zealand Division in the Mediterranean. He expected to stay briefly on the island and then reunite his division in Egypt. Instead, he was given command of the garrison and told to prepare the defence of the island against an expected air and sea invasion.

Freyberg deployed his forces around the three main population centres on the island's north coast. These had airfields or ports that would be vital to an enemy intending to capture Crete. The largest defended area was in the west, stretching from the airfield at Maleme to the ports at Canea (Hania) and Suda. New Zealanders held this area, with Australian, British, and Greek units in support. In the centre of the north coast mainly British units, with some Australian and Greek forces, held the capital of Heraklion. Between these two forces, four Australian battalions and a field regiment (artillery) held the area from Georgiopolis to Retimo (Rethymnon), supported by three battalion-strength Greek regiments and local police.

Without air support, Freyberg ordered his men to make maximum use of camouflage and to be ready to counter-attack against any attempted landing. By mid-May the German Air Force had intensified its bombing and strafing of the island, warning the garrison of imminent attack.

The invasion of Crete began the morning of May 20. Ralph Honner, at the time a company commander with the 2/11th Battalion, described the arrival of the Germans, as seen from his vantage point under the olive trees east of Retimo:

"[It was] a spectacle that might have belonged to a war between the planets. Out of the unswerving flying fleet came tumbling lines of little dolls, sprouting silken mushrooms that stayed and steadied them, and lowered them in ordered ranks into our consuming fire. And still they came, till all the fantastic sky before us was filled with futuristic snowflakes floating beneath the low black thundercloud of the processional planes - occasionally flashing into fire as if struck by lightning from the earth."

These "little dolls" – German paratroopers of General Kurt Student's XI Air Corps – were highly trained and motivated. For ten days they, and the elite mountain troops that were sent to reinforce them, hunted and were hunted by the Australian, New Zealand, British, and Greek soldiers, as well as Cretan farmers, townspeople, and police. Fighting was savage and bloody, with little quarter given or asked for. Men fought to the death in solitary duels or major engagements; their bodies cluttered the narrow streets of the towns or lay among the olive trees and creek beds of the countryside. Forty years later, Ted Randolf of the 2/7th Field Ambulance remembered: "A sickly, sweet smell drifted through the area getting stronger until one could taste it in the mouth. The smell was of the dead. I can still taste it. Once it is with you, you never forget it!"
The German parachute assault groups targeted the three areas predicted by Freyberg and his commanders. They began landing at the airfield at Maleme at dawn. By mid-afternoon both the airfield at Heraklion and the airstrip at Retimo were under attack.

In the countryside and villages of the Heraklion and Retimo sectors, the Germans were driven from their objectives. The Allies denied the airfields to the enemy but were cut off from each other as they fought bitter battles on their flanks. At Maleme, the Germans captured the airfield and flew in desperately needed reinforcements. Over the next week they drove the Allies east to defensive positions around Suda, capturing the port at Canea on the way.

By 26 May Freyberg reported that his position was hopeless and his men had reached their limit: food and ammunition was in short supply, they had no motor transport, and communications were sporadic at best. The three forces established to defend the sectors around the airfields could not support each other. The German Air Force had unchallenged mastery of the skies and, therefore, dominated the battlefields during daylight hours. Retreat and evacuation was the garrison’s only option. The troops around Suda began to withdraw across the island to Sfakia on the south coast. On 29 May the Allies abandoned Heraklion. Successfully evacuated from the ancient port, many lost their lives when the convoy was attacked by air. At Retimo, the West Australians of the 2/11th and the New South Welshmen of the 2/1st Battalions, still fighting to deny the airstrip to the Germans, were cut off.
From 29 May to 1 June the Royal Navy evacuated around 10,000 Allied soldiers from Sfakia. They did not have the ships to take more and the Victorian 2/7th Battalion, after fighting so gallantly at 42nd Street near Suda, was left behind. Without food or ammunition, they faced capture.

The 2/3rd Field Regiment had acquired four Italian army artillery pieces and ammunition. They were helping to keep the road to Sfakia open.

Lawrence wrote "A little Humber staff car was making its way along the road and the occupants attracted our attention by yelling out that the Germans were coming over the top of the hill and could we reach them. Our guns were Italian mountain guns with five degrees of elevation and twelve degrees depression, so we could not gain the elevation to reach them. It was dusk and this bloke identifies himself as General Freyberg, so we dug a hole in the earth and dropped the trail of the gun down into it, which gave us more elevation, how much we didn't know and we fired a few rounds while he gave us corrections. This was three days before the end of the fighting. He said something about good shooting and drove off."

By 30 May Lieutenant Colonel Ian Campbell, commanding officer of the 2/1st Battalion and Retimo Force commander, decided further resistance at Retimo was pointless and ordered his men to surrender. Major Sandover, leading the 2/11th Battalion, offered his men the choice of surrender or escape. Many took the latter...
The Gallipoli Club has a living connection with the Battle of Crete in Alf Carpenter, the 99-year-old Club legend and long time President of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Association, pictured above with John Brogan and Ted Codd.

Regimental Sergeant Major Alf Carpenter was among Australian soldiers who were pushing back the Italian Army in Greece when the better armed German reinforcements invaded and reversed the Australian advance.

Alf and his mates were rescued by HMS Hasty which took troops to Crete. His strongest memory of the 1941 battle was watching Nazi soldiers falling from the sky above Heraklion Airport.

"I can also remember what wonderful people the Cretans were," Alf said.

Lawrence and his comrades were captured at Sfarkia while trying to fill their water bottles. He was a prisoner of war until late 1944 when the Germans handed him over to the Swiss Red Cross as he was too weak to work. He was hospitalised in London, returned to Australia and civilian life and died in 2001.

Crete remained occupied by Axis forces to the end of the war.

After the Battle of Crete was lost, Alf embarked for the Egyptian port city of Alexandria on the destroyer HMS Imperial. This ship was severely damaged in bombing by the Italian Air Force on May 28 1941. The troops had to jump from Imperial, which was beyond repair, to HMS Hotspur. They watched as Hotspur scuttled Imperial before completing the journey to Egypt.

Regimental Sergeant Major Alf had to muster the men once they landed. Of the 1100 men who left to fight in Greece, Alf mustered only 400.

Alf keeps alive the memory of his fallen comrades through a lifetime of service for returned service personnel. This includes through the Gallipoli Club, the 2/4th Association and the Thirty-Niners' Association, a veterans group whose membership is restricted to those who heard the call first up and enlisted by December 31 1939.

Both Alf and Lindsay Lawrence later served as Presidents of the Thirty-Niners.

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THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN
THE BEGINNING – “THE LANDING”

Men of the 1st Australian Division A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) landing under heavy Turkish fire at ARI BURNU, 4.30am on 25th April, 1915. The beach was later named ANZAC COVE.

The name “ANZAC” originated in Egypt early in 1915 where the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps were training. The Corps Commander, Lieut. Gen. William Birdwood, used the abbreviated title of the Corps, A.N.Z.A.C., as the code word for the Corps in preparation for the Gallipoli Campaign – a word that was to make history and be revered by Australians and New Zealanders for all time. An “ANZAC” was an Australian or New Zealand soldier who served in the Gallipoli Campaign. The term “an Original ANZAC” identified those men who participated in the initial landing on the 25th April, 1915 – the 1st Australian Division, A.I.F.

The Campaign ended on the 18th December, 1915, following the evacuation of all Allied troops from the Peninsula.

In the 8 months period of the Campaign, Australian casualties were:
- Killed in action and died of wounds: 8,079
- Wounded in action and missing: 17,924
- Total: 26,003

Our Club was originally “The Gallipoli Legion Club” until November, 1967 when it became “The Gallipoli Memorial Club” – a memorial where the legend of GALLIPOLI would be firmly entrenched as an inspiration to future generations of Australians.

It was founded and developed by the GALLIPOLI LEGIONS OF ANZACS, those “ANZACS” who survived the Gallipoli Campaign and following that, the Campaigns of France and Belgium until the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.