

# THE GALLIPOLI NEWSLETTER



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB LTD

## EDITORIAL...

Welcome to the new look *Gallipoli Gazette*. Our magazine has long been available in e-format on the Club website and now this is its prime format. However, printed copies will be available at the Club. Please ask the bar staff for a hard copy.

In this edition we join Brad Manera, *the Senior Historian at the Anzac War Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park*, for his Lone Pine Night talk about the Gallipoli Campaign in which he takes a personal look via the life of the youngest man killed in action in World War One, fifteen year old Jack Harris of Waverley, NSW.

The weather at Gallipoli is the subject of an article by regular contributor, Bruce McEwan. Among

the unheralded causes of death in the campaign were drowning in flooded trenches and freezing to death in worn out, unsuitable clothing.

We also read of two Members of the NSW State Parliament George Braund and Ted Larkin who died in the Gallipoli campaign, plus immensely talented Australian, Frederick Kelly. Kelly was an Olympic rower, pianist, composer and conductor who, while recovering from wounds from the Gallipoli campaign wrote a poignant *Elegy* for string orchestra, in memory of his friend, the poet Rupert Brooke who died two days before the Gallipoli landing. Kelly survived the Dardennes, but was killed in France.



Guest speaker Brad Manera and Club President Stephen Ware



Vice President Ted Codd talks with former club official Clive Curwood and Director Scott Heathwood before the presentation

## 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*

## LONE PINE NIGHT AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

Lone Pine Address:

*Brad Manera, the Senior Historian at the Anzac War Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park gave the 2016 Lone Pine Address at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.*

The Dardanelles Campaign was the first great test for soldiers of the young nation of Australia. The importance of the Dardanelles was that they were the waterway at the entrance to the Sea of Marmara which was the passageway to the Black Sea. The Black Sea was home to the only Russian ports that were not frozen over in winter.

The Ottoman Empire's navy laid mines along the shore just inside the entrance to the straits. On March 18 1915 the British and French Navies tried to force their way through to get to the Black Sea. In the ensuing battle, one third of allied shipping was lost, so a new land and sea strategy for the Dardanelles was decided upon. Tragically the allies waited six weeks to act which gave the Ottomans and their German allies time to group.

The plan in the Gallipoli invasion was for the British lead troops to land at four beaches about 4.30am and the Australian Brigade to land along the coast before dawn and then unite with the four British groups and push back the Turks.

From Day One the campaign fell apart. The allied British Empire forces were under resourced, the terrain was tougher than expected and the Turkish defender's numbers were underestimated. This resulted in the allied forces being caught on the second line of ridges along the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The Australian and four British groups were unable to meet up and crush the Turks. Both sides dug in. On May 19 there was a massive Turkish counter attack. It was so bloody that both sides stopped and took leave to bury their dead. By June and July disease was killing more men than the fighting.

*(Having set the scene, Brad Manera's speech switched to the story of Jack Harris, the youngest soldier "killed in action" in World War One to give a human aspect to the Gallipoli Campaign)*

**John Auguste Emile Harris** (#2251, 2nd Battalion) from Waverley, Sydney, was a clerk who had attended the Cleveland Street School in inner Sydney. He enlisted on June 2 1915 at 14 years of age but claimed to be 18, the age at which you could enlist with parental approval. Jack overcame the initial resistance of his parents by pointing out that his father, Alfred, had been even younger when he joined the British Navy in which he later took part in the Opium and Maori Wars. Jack stood 5'3" tall (160cms).

Jack had three weeks training in Australia and two weeks overseas before being shipped to Gallipoli. He was promoted to Lance Corporal at 15.

One of his officers was Everard Digges La Touche, an Anglican priest who had lectured at Moore Theological College, Sydney but resigned over a theological disagreement and enlisted. La Touche, in correspondence with Jack's mother, promised to keep an eye on Jack.

La Touche's men were engaged in the Battle of Lone Pine, which was a feint to draw Turkish attention away from a nearby British invasion. Jack and his mates progressed to near the Lone Pine ridge via a series of tunnels that came up within 20 meters of the Turkish line. At 5.30 am the Australians rose from their trenches and took the land up to the ridge. However, behind the ridge they found



Turkish trenches covered by pine roofing with machine guns aimed at them.

The machine guns took out the first lines of troops, but the Australians got under the roofs and hand to combat ensued.

La Touche died in the trench on August 8. On August 14 Jack's family were informed by telegram that Jack Harris was listed as missing. In November, the family was informed that Jack had died on August 8. Jack was buried in Lone Pine Cemetery. After the war his father wrote that Jack was 15 years 10 months old at the time of his death

### **Youngest WW1 death**

While Jack Harris was the youngest soldier to be "killed in action", James Charles Martin from Tocumwal NSW is thought to be the youngest Australian soldier to lose his life in the Great War. He died in hospital from fever acquired in the trenches of Gallipoli, still two months shy of his 15th Birthday. He had enlisted aged 14 years and two months.



*John Moore 2/4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Association with restaurant owner Wendy Mok and Una Lawrence after the Lone Pine Address enjoying a glass of wine from the extensive offering at the Club's Chinese Restaurant*



*Gwen and John Haynes at Lone Pine Night.*

## **Australian Composer and Olympian died in WW1**

While British academia has mourned the death of the poets Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen in World War One for a century, few Australians know of Brooke's friend, Frederick Kelly, an Olympic Gold medal rower and composer, who could be our colonial equivalent.

Frederick Septimus Kelly (1881-1916), was born in Sydney on May 29, 1881. He moved from Sydney Grammar School to Britain's famous Eton (1893-99) and then to Balliol College, Oxford (B.A., 1903; M.A., 1912) on a music scholarship from where he graduated with fourth-class honours in history.

His musical abilities were apparent as a child when he mastered Mozart and Beethoven piano sonatas.

In balance to his musical prowess, he was an accomplished rower, representing Eton at the Royal Henley Regatta 1897-99.

As an Oxford rower, he won the Diamond Sculls

at Henley in 1902, 1903 and in 1905. His 1905 record time was not surpassed until 1938. In 1903 he backed up to row in the Oxford eight and won the Wingfield Sculls.

In 1908 he was part of the British eight that won the gold medal at the London Olympics in a highly successful rowing squad that included several Australians.

He often performed at the Oxford Musical Club (of which he was President) and in the Balliol Sunday evening concerts and dedicated himself to fulfilling his dual ambition to become 'a great player and a great composer'.

On his return to England in 1908 Kelly played at numerous private and semi-public concerts and began advising on the programmes of the Classical Concert Society, London, becoming its Chairman in 1912.

In 1911 he visited Sydney and between June and

August. To the delight of the Sydney critics, he gave three solo recitals (with programmes ranging from Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt, Schumann and Brahms, to recent works of Scriabin and Debussy and his own Cycle of Lyrics). He also gave two chamber music concerts, performed the Beethoven G major concerto with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and conducted a chamber orchestra concert when Melba's flautist John Lemmone played Kelly's Serenade for flute and small orchestra.

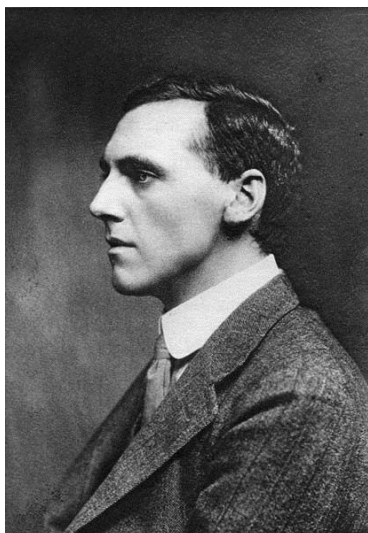
On returning to London, he gave three recitals in February and March 1912. The critics referred to his 'crisp, clear enunciation', his 'equable and melodious touch' and to his 'intellectual grasp of the music': that they objected to his giving the audience 'credit for nerves as strong as his own' in loud passages, suggests that his interpretation was in advance of its time. Later that year he played concertos by Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart and Brahms with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir George Henschel. He also played chamber music and duo-sonatas with such notable instrumentalists as the Hungarian violinist Jelly d'Aranyi (who was reportedly deeply in love with him) and the cellist Pablo Casals.

His comparatively few compositions include some effectively written and charming piano pieces and later, more substantial works such as

*Theme, Variations and Fugue* for two pianos and a *Violin Sonata*, written for Jelly d'Aranyi and first performed by her and Kelly's close friend, the pianist Leonard Borwick, at the memorial concert to Kelly at the Wigmore Hall, London, on May 2, 1919.

In September 1914 Kelly joined the Royal Naval Division and was soon involved in the unsuccessful defence of Antwerp, Belgium. Early in 1915 he sailed for the Dardanelles with the Hood Battalion with such scholar-soldiers as Rupert Brooke, Arthur Asquith and Patrick Shaw-Stewart; they were known on the ship as the 'Latin Club'. He landed on Gallipoli in April. While recovering from wounds he wrote the poignant *Elegy* for string orchestra, in memory of Brooke whose burial on Skyros he had attended.

Promoted lieutenant in June, Kelly returned to Gallipoli in July and was among the last to leave. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry' there. In May 1916 he went with the Hood Battalion to France, in command of 'B' Company. His strict standards of discipline 'were not generally palatable', but his 'unfailing fearlessness and scrupulous justice', and activities as director of the regimental band, won him enormous respect. He was killed on November 13, 1916 while leading an attack on a machine-gun emplacement at Beaucourt-sur-Ancre.



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## Nature Added to the Toll Caused By Bad Planning at Gallipoli

By Bruce McEwan

**The Anzacs had a lot to contend with by being landed in the wrong place at Gallipoli: The steep terrain, rifle and machine gun fire and artillery shells were exacerbated by what Mother Nature then threw at the diggers.**

Temperatures for this part of Turkey range from *an average* maximum of just three degrees centigrade in winter to *an average* high of 31 degrees in summer.

The extremes are below freezing and above 40C.

When the poorly-trained and ill-equipped Australian troops set sail from Albany in Western Australia, they were expecting to be taken to Europe. Because of the lack of accommodation and training facilities in England they were diverted to Egypt to continue their introduction to military life (and death). While still training in the Egyptian desert in late 1914, the 1st Australian Division and the New Zealand Australian Division, which later included the 1st Light Horse Brigade, were re-formed into the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – the Anzacs.

The soldiers had no idea that they would be fighting Turkish Ottoman troops when they enlisted. The battle at Gallipoli was not between two antagonists but instead two groups of nations fighting on behalf of other remote nations. This probably was responsible for the empathy and respect that developed between opposing soldiers in this failed campaign.

The topography at Gallipoli was unexpectedly rough and steep. On April 25, 1915 the Anzacs were dumped by boats onto a narrow beach a mile from their intended landing on level ground at Suvla Beach. Above them towered bare hillsides of a compressed aggregate that could be dug into with pick and shovel but which was unstable and unsupportive. Saps (protective cavities dug into the sides of trenches) and the trenches themselves often collapsed – especially under pounding shocks from Turkish shells.

This craggy shore was to be their home for the next eight months until the ill-conceived campaign was cancelled by the British commanders.

Rain fell throughout the year – up to 100 mm in November and December and there were severe frosts in the winter months. Snow was heavy at times and the Anzacs were ill-equipped to combat the cold because not only had most of them never seen snow before but the clothing they had been issued was insufficient to protect them. Clad in all the clothing from their packs they often shivered under blankets coated in snow.

Because material to make fires was scarce the diggers struggled to keep their clothes dry throughout the winter months and the damp contributed greatly to the spread of illnesses and diseases.

Their rations were so poor, they often went hungry and lacked energy but they stoically fought on against Turkish forces well supplied from their homeland and by local farmers and traders.

The British planners of the Gallipoli assault had expected a rapid victory and had made no plans for an extended campaign.

When the soldiers landed in late spring the climate was at its best. But in summer, temperatures soared and remained that way even at night, which meant they could not obtain much-needed rest.

Winter's freezing blizzards and frost caused the greatest discomfort. By the time winter arrived their clothes and boots were worn out. The men had to huddle together in dirty old blankets to survive. Many men who were on duty froze to death at their posts. Many more needed to have their toes or feet amputated because of severe frostbite.

*(Continued page10)*

## Battles of Fromelles and Pozières Remembered

***Australia's political leaders journeyed to Europe to pay tribute to the fallen on the centenary of the battles of Fromelles and Pozières.***

Australia has honoured the service and sacrifice of our First World War soldiers at the centenary commemorations for the battles of Fromelles and Pozières.

The Battle of Fromelles of July 19, 1916 was the first major engagement by Australian soldiers on the Western Front where the Australian 5th Division suffered 5,533 casualties in just 24 hours — Australia's bloodiest single day in military history.

The Battle of Pozières (July 23 - September 3, 1916) saw three further Australian Divisions capturing and holding the village of Pozières and launching 19 attacks.

Almost 300,000 Australians served on the Western Front, where 45,000 lost their lives. More than one-third of those have no known grave.

A commemorative service was held on Tuesday July 19, at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery to mark the start of a series of 100-year anniversaries of battles involving Australians on the Western Front. This included a Headstone Dedication for six soldiers whose remains were identified by the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties Fromelles project team.

The Australians at Fromelles, Pozières and across the Western Front were volunteers fighting for Australian values and freedom. Their bravery has become legendary, especially in the Fromelles and Pozières regions.

On Saturday, July 23, a service was held at the site of the 1st Australian Division Memorial,

Pozières. The remains of three unknown soldiers were reinterred with full military honours.

The Minister for Veterans Affairs, Dan Tehan attended the events with Warren Snowdon MP who was the Minister for Veterans Affairs (2010-13), the Governors of New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell DSC, AM, Australian Ambassador to France Stephen Brady, French Secretary of State for Veterans' and Commemorations Jean-Marc Todechini, Military Governor of Lille, General Bernard Maitrier and other dignitaries.

"Even one hundred years after the fighting took place we buried our unknown soldiers with respect and honour because it was the right thing to do," Mr Tehan said.

"The Australians at Fromelles, Pozières and across the Western Front were volunteers fighting for our values and freedom — their bravery has become legendary, especially in this corner of Europe.

"They are custodians of the Anzac tradition and set a standard that continues to this day in the men and women who serve in our defence forces. As a country we must never forget the service of the men and women who fight and die defending our way of life. "We should reflect on the experiences these Australians endured so far from home, the things they saw and the sacrifices they made and we should be grateful for the liberty we enjoy today because of their selfless actions," Mr Tehan said.

**Watch/read the Brendan Nelson speech.....very moving**

<https://www.awm.gov.au/talks-speeches/fromelles-pozières-we-remember/>



## Two NSW MPs died in WW1.

*A plaque on the wall of the NSW Legislative Assembly commemorates two State Parliamentarians who died in World War One.*

Edward Rennix Larkin (1880-1915), was born on January 3, 1880 at North Lambton, Newcastle, the, third child of William Joseph Larkin, quarryman and miner, and his wife Mary Ann, née Rennix.

Ted Larkin was educated at St Benedict's School, Chippendale, Sydney, and St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill and became a journalist on the *Year Book of Australia*. On July 24, 1903 he married May Josephine Yates at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Newtown. They had two sons. Larkin had played Rugby Union football at school and later he played first grade for Newtown which he captained in 1903. That year as a forward he played for the State against New Zealand and Queensland and for Australia against New Zealand. He was an able cricketer, swimmer and boxer. A 'ready and eloquent speaker', he was a member of St Joseph's (Newtown) Literary and Debating Society.

When Larkin joined the Police Force in October 1903 he was described as 5 ft 10½ ins (179 cm) in height, weighing 13 stone (83 kg), with blue

eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion. He was a foot-constable in the Metropolitan Police District until promoted ordinary constable in January 1905. Having parliamentary aspirations, he found the political restrictions of the force irksome, and in June 1909 resigned to become first full-time secretary of the newly formed New South Wales Rugby Football League. An excellent organizer, he quickly remedied the disordered administration and was a prominent advocate for the new code, believing in 'honest professionalism as against quasi amateur football'. He persuaded Marist Brothers' schools to play Rugby League in 1913. Under his guidance the code came to be the dominant winter sport in Sydney.

He was a keen student of social problems, and was seldom without a Socialist book or pamphlet in his pocket. On 13 December 1913 he won the seat of Willoughby in the Legislative Assembly for the Labor Party and later was appointed government representative on the board of Royal North Shore Hospital. On 17 August 1914

he enlisted in the 1st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, and became a sergeant. After showing 'conspicuous gallantry' Larkin was killed in action at Pine Ridge, Gallipoli, on 25 April 1915. A memorial service was held in St Mary's Cathedral.

Larkin was an important figure in Rugby League. His career was an early indication of the link between it and the Labor Party. His enlistment and death helped to counteract accusations that the code was unpatriotic for continuing grade competition during World War I.

George Frederick Braund (1866-1915), merchant, politician and soldier, was born on July 13, 1866 at Bideford, Devonshire, England, eldest son of Frederick Braund, draper, and his wife Ellen. At 15, he migrated to New South Wales with his parents and their nine other children. He worked in Sydney until 1889 when his father bought out J. Moore & Co., general merchants of Armidale. From then until his father's death in 1899 he was accountant in the family business; he then became manager. As a young man Braund was a talented all-round sportsman, excelling at boxing, fencing and rugby; he was also an active member of local literary and drama groups. On January 30, 1895 he married Lalla Robina Blythe at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Drayton, Queensland.

In May 1893 Braund had been commissioned second lieutenant in the Armidale company, 4th Australian Infantry Regiment. He was promoted lieutenant in 1898, captain in 1899 and major in 1912, and was company commander in 1899-1912. He took a continuing interest in local affairs and by World War I was 'Armidale's most prominent citizen'. A magistrate, he was also for many years president of the Armidale Chamber of Commerce, a member of the public school board, and a director of the New England Building Society and of various local business concerns. In 1910 the Liberal Party invited him to contest the Federal seat of New England; he declined because of family commitments but in 1913 became Liberal member for Armidale in the Legislative Assembly.

That year Braund was promoted lieutenant-colonel, and from July 1914 commanded the 13th Infantry Regiment. On the formation of the

Australian Imperial Force he was appointed to raise and train the 2nd Battalion and on August 17 became its commanding officer. The unit embarked for Egypt two months later. Braund trained his officers and men with extreme thoroughness and, largely by his own example, exacted a high standard of discipline. He was a convinced theosophist; self-discipline was part of his creed; he was a teetotaler, a non-smoker and a vegetarian and was almost obsessive about physical fitness. He was short in stature, alert, active and of a lively disposition. He probably commanded respect, rather than affection, from his troops. Once on Gallipoli, however, all appreciated his insistence on fitness, discipline and mental alertness.

On the morning of April 25, 1915 the 2nd Battalion landed at Gallipoli and two of its companies were at once assigned to the 3rd Brigade, already engaged in fierce fighting at The Nek. 'B' and 'C' Companies were held in reserve until 1.30 p.m. when, under a harassing fire, Braund led them up steep goat-tracks to the junction of Walker's Ridge and Russell's Top. There, in a vital but isolated position, they dug in and held on for two days against a sustained Turkish attack. Casualties were high and only Braund's tenacious leadership held his seriously weakened force together. On April 27, when reinforcements from Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Malone's Wellington Battalion reached him, he led the combined force in a steady bayonet charge through the scrub to the crest of Russell's Top. Forced to withdraw before a strong enemy counter-attack, his men resumed their original positions and retained them until the morning of the 28th; by then Braund's exhausted battalion had withstood the main Turkish advance for three days and nights without rest. They withdrew to the beach, leaving Malone's men in control of the sector.

Malone kept a diary in which he was critical of Braund's command. His comments seem unjustified; far from voicing any criticism of Braund, his own men paid tribute to his courage and gallantry. Charles Bean judged that he had shown 'every quality of a really great leader'. On May 2, 1915 Braund was ordered from the beach, where his battalion was held in reserve, to Victoria Gully. After midnight on May 3-4 he was asked to send part of his unit to reinforce the 3rd



Battalion in the line. After dispatching 'C' Company he set out for brigade headquarters and instead of using the normal track took a short cut through the scrub. Slightly deaf, Braund failed to hear a challenge from a sentry, who shot him. He was buried in Beach cemetery,

Gallipoli, and was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was mentioned in dispatches posthumously. Braund was the first Australian legislator to enlist for World War I and the second to die in battle.

**MISTAKE**

*The Parliamentary plaque incorrectly records that both men “Fell gloriously in action, at the Dardanelles in the month of May” when in fact Larkin died on April 25 1915. There is action underway to correct this mistake.*



*Brad Manera based his very human speech on slides relating to the Gallipoli campaign and the men who fought in it*



*John Moore with displays about the Turkish and Australian heroism on the Gallipoli Peninsula*



*President Stephen Ware welcomes guests*



*Vice President David Ford recites the Ode*

## ***Nature added to the Toll...***

*(Continued from page 5)*

Torrential rainstorms flooded the trenches and the peninsula's ravines. Rivers of mud poured down the steep hillsides to the beach making the delivery of ammunition and supplies very difficult. Often storms were so extreme that they washed human remains into the trenches and some British soldiers at Suvla drowned in the torrent at their posts. The Turks were accustomed to the conditions and what's more, their trenches were on higher ground and not prone to flooding.

Treatment for the allied wounded was basic. Morphine, always scarce, was given by mouth; splints were improvised.

Stretcher bearers struggled up and down narrow tracks, raked by sniper fire. The wait for treatment and evacuation was often long and agonizing. Poor planning and the sheer scale of casualties overwhelmed available medical resources, and the lack of coordination and management meant that many serious cases were left on the beach too long. But on board the ships offshore conditions were just as appalling with overcrowding and a disgraceful absence of procedural leadership either from the medical hierarchy or the battle commanders.

By the campaign's end the rotting, unburied bodies of both allies and enemy dead gave off a sickening stench that the Anzacs could not escape. Their clothing reeked of it months later. Water always was scarce and scrambling to the beach below to wash bodies and clothes was a very hazardous choice.

Throughout the time they were on Gallipoli, conditions for the ANZACS were terrible. The men suffered from dysentery, gastroenteritis, typhoid fever, pneumonia and cholera and faced

plagues of fleas, flies and rats. They were under constant fire from an enemy that vastly outnumbered them and who occupied far better trench positions above their lines. During the campaign, 8,708 Australians and 2,721 New-Zealanders were killed. The exact number of Turkish dead is not known but has been estimated around 87,000. Fortunately, the evacuation which began on December 19 went well – 142,000 men were picked up from the beaches with negligible casualties.

But for many, worse was to come. Some, mostly light horse soldiers, took part in the successful Sinai campaign to protect the Suez Canal and reclaim Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land. But, thousands of these tired, battle-hardened Anzacs were transported to Britain to join in the equally disastrous fighting on the Western Front where they fought with distinction.

By the end of 1916 about 40,000 Australians had been killed or wounded on the Western Front. In 1917 a further 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles such Bullecourt, Fromelles, Messines, and the four-month campaign around Ypres known as the battle of Passchendaele.

The First World War remains Australia's costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

Families lost a generation of young men. The cost to the nation in terms of manpower, human energy, skills and creativity is immeasurable.

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