

Tomkins wins second Gallipoli Art Prize

Sydney artist Andrew Tomkins has won the 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize with his work featuring the hulk of HMAS KARANGI which rests in the waters of Homebush Bay where it has become a haven for endangered mangroves, wetlands and wildlife.

It is the twentieth year of the Gallipoli Art Prize, one of the main art awards in Australia.

Andrew described the hulk as “a potent symbol for peace in our present turbulent times.”

In 2023 Andrew won the \$20,000 acquisitive Gallipoli Art Prize for his work, *Ray's Room*, which depicted his uncle's room in his grandparent's house.

He has been a finalist in the Gallipoli Art Prize now five times. He was awarded Highly Commended by judges in 2021 for his work 'The Guns Fell Silent' recounting the story of his Scottish mother who was based on the anti-aircraft guns overlooking the English Channel on D Day, June 6, 1944.

Andrew is an acclaimed Australian artist who started painting at age 12 and later studied at the Julian Ashton School of Art. A licensed builder by trade, Andrew's appreciation of the natural world and the environment combined with his passion for art has resulted in numerous art prizes including Winner of the inaugural Burwood Art Prize 2017.

The highly Commended Award went to Wayne Davids for his painting *Lighthorse Section*. (see page 2)

HMAS KARANGI, a Kangaroo Class boom defence vessel, was launched in 1941 at Cockatoo Island and was decommissioned in 1964. It was sold for scrap in 1966 but never removed from Sydney.



This ship worked the anti-submarine boom gates to Darwin Harbour during WWII, helping to defend Darwin during the Japanese bombing of 1942 and was awarded battle honours for engaging Japanese aircraft during this period. Post war the ship supported nuclear testing in the Montebello Islands off the West Australian coast.

For inspiration, Tomkins references the images of tanks firing love hearts or peace signs done by the anonymous England-based graffiti artist and political activist, Banksy.

“In creating this artwork HMAS Karangi is a memorial to the personnel who sailed her. I have utilised her reality to create a graphic picture of a more peaceful world, in the same vein as Banksy’s peace paintings” Andrew said.

“With the global turmoil that has been happening, I thought to try and tap into that sentiment and to present a statement that would represent a more peaceful world. For me the prize is about remembrance, it is about remembering the past. Peace can never be achieved without looking back. There is no future without the past”

Andrew’s unique work is created with a technique he has developed over many years whereby he draws and then paints on to a translucent polyester sheet. He then hand cuts around the shapes with a scalpel and rather than discarding the ‘stencil’ like sheet, this forms a layer of the artwork.

His methodology, or visual language, has evolved not only from the European and Chinese socialist woodcuts movement but also modern day street art, specifically stencil art.

Andrew has exhibited across Australia including Sydney

Contemporary 2017-2019 and has also exhibited at Art Central Hong Kong 2018 and 2019. Tomkins was selected to exhibit at the Beijing International Biennale at the National Art Museum in Beijing in China in 2019 and his work is in the collection of the National Art Museum of China in Beijing. He is currently a full-time artist and is a judge for the Master Builders Association of NSW in the excellence in housing awards

“The concept of negative space is one of the first things art students learn in class,” said Elizabeth Fortescue, one of the Gallipoli Art Prize judges. “They’re taught what negative space is, and why it matters. To Andrew, negative spaces hold a fascination and even an obsession.”

Gallipoli Club President, John Robertson, one of the judges, said the judges have been impressed with Andrew’s work year on year. This is a spectacular painting reflecting his obsession with light and shadow and his attraction to Homebush Bay.

“We particularly liked that he chose to emphasise the last part of the Club’s creed *perpetual peace*.”



Wayne Davis painting *Lighthorse Section*

Wayne Davis said his oil on board painting *Lighthorse Section* aims to show the energy, trust and interdependence between the horses and riders of the Australian Lighthorse Regiment in the Middle East during the First World War



Robert Hammill's oil on canvas "Daring Victory" celebrates the commandos on the KRAIT in Operation Jaywick in 1943 as they board their three two-man collapsible canoes under cover of darkness off Singapore before using mines to sink or severely damage seven Japanese ships.



Jon Potter's eerie tribute to the unknown soldiers "whose names and faces are lost to time" entitled "Unknown"



Ross Townsend's "Duty Calls". On any day, defence personnel may be called to duty. Saying goodbye to their loved ones for days, weeks, or months at a time.

Editorial

As is traditional with the Winter Edition, this *Gallipoli Gazette* focusses on the annual Gallipoli Art Prize.

This year marks twenty years since the Club Committee decided to institute an acquisitive art prize which started with a First Prize of \$10,000 that is now \$20,000.

Our award is now recognised as one of the major art prizes in Australia. The calibre of the winners over the years is reinforced by the number of other art prizes they have won, plus the extensive list of notable collections that now contain their work.

Our other major story is prompted by the “America First” ideal that has gained traction in the United States. I recall that 50 to 60 years ago protestors around the world, including Australia, would carry “Yankee go home” signs. In his first term. President Trump announced that the Yankees were considering going home – and allowing countries that hosted United States military bases to defend themselves without US military and financial support. There was immediate criticism of that administration for these proposed curbs. The Biden administration that replaced the Trump team maintained a more

traditional United States overseas presence. Last November, the people of the United States re-elected Mr Trump knowing full well that he retained this more isolationist stance.

So, this edition takes us back to the 1930s. President Roosevelt oversaw an administration that was isolationist, supported by memories of so many American families of the offspring they lost in 1917-18 when America joined the allies in World War One. In the 1940 US Election, Roosevelt promised to keep out of the European centred World War Two. However, his democratic instincts underpinned his own belief that bullies such as Hitler should not be allowed to prevail. The White House either turned a blind eye to American moves to support their allies or privately encouraged them, despite parts of the administration fulfilling their duty to prevent such American involvement.

It was only after the attack on Pearl Harbour that Roosevelt was able to declare war on Japan and Germany and give legitimacy to the groups that had unofficially reinforced the allies through training efforts in Canada and against the Japanese by training airforce operatives in Burma to fight the Japanese in China.

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Presidents Report Winter 2025

This year saw our 20th Art Competition and Exhibition. The opening was well attended and we had good media coverage. General consensus is that it is one of our best. The winner Andrew Tomkins won in 2023 and this year his painting is of the hulk of *HMAS Karangi* in Homebush Bay with mangroves growing out of it. Highly Commended is Wayne Davis with a spectacularly energetic painting of four Lighthouse men.

This is our third year at the Atherden Street Exhibition Space, in the historic Rocks District (Tallawoladah), Sydney. We again thank Property NSW and the International Convention Centre Sydney for their generosity in providing the exhibition space and use of their facilities. We will be proceeding with our virtual exhibition again so that those Club members, artists and general public unable to physically visit will still be able to enjoy the art works online. <https://www.gallipoliartprize.org.au/2025-virtual-tour/>

The Annual General Meetings of both the Club and Museum Fund were held at the Royal Exchange of Sydney. Numbers were down and it was almost a situation of going to the Highways and Byways to get extra members to eat the food. We thank the Directors and staff at the Royal Exchange for their hospitality.

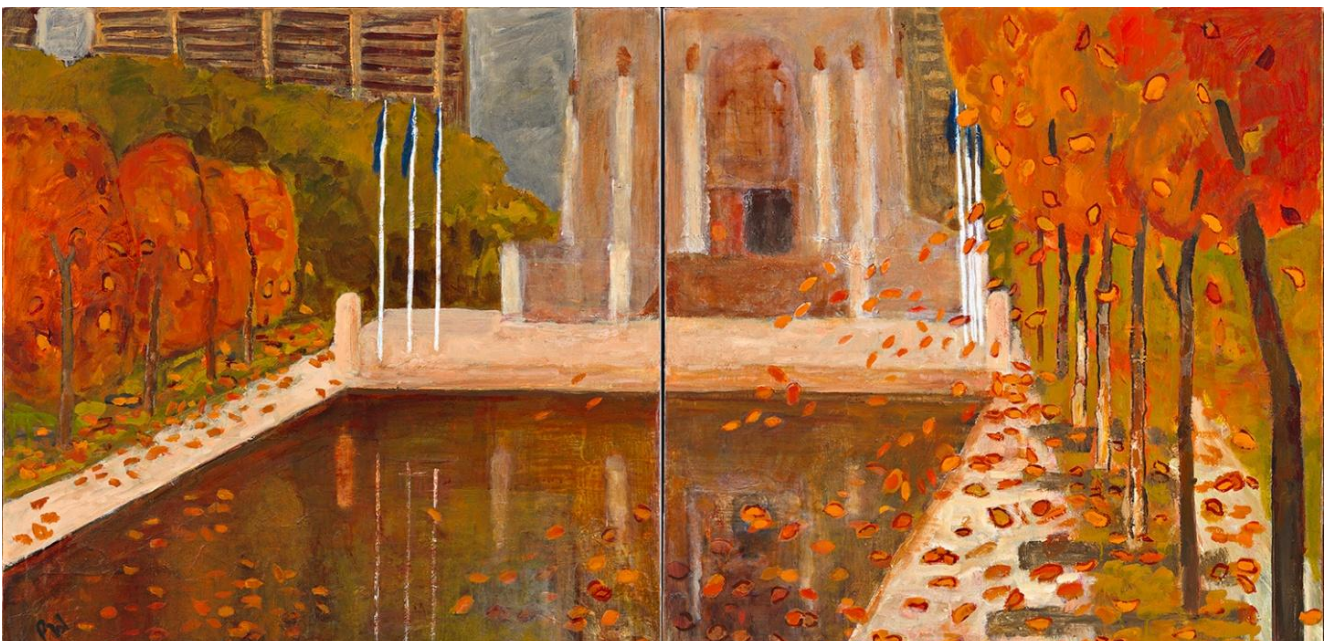
The Club was represented at the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph by myself and Vice-President Ted Codd. A wonderful turn out by the public despite the bleak predictions.

We continue to be active within the Strata Management Committee for the Quay Quarter and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service Trust.

The Board continues to meet regularly via tele-conference and face to face where possible.

Keep safe, keep well and keep smiling.

John Robertson
President



"The First Leaves Fall" by Peter Whitehead

Art Prize – continued from page 3.

Australia artist, Amanda Gosse from Wiltshire UK, timed her annual trip home to Australia to coincide with the Gallipoli Art Prize. This was the first year she entered.

She was photographed standing in front of her acrylic on canvas work “Veterans” with Susan and Derek Hall of Neutral Bay.

Her work acknowledged the important role that pigeons, and other animals, played during the First and Second World Wars.

“Pigeons were an effective communication method, carrying vital information in a pouch on their back, or a vial tied to a leg, between the front line and headquarters, especially from locations where radio communication was not available,” Amanda explained.

The painting comprises an antique photograph of a returned soldier, releasing a messenger pigeon to freedom after its service.

“The photograph is positioned on a mantelpiece of a loved one, against a backdrop of rosemary-patterned wallpaper. Rosemary grows wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula and is a symbol of commemoration and, as well as the familiar red poppy, is traditionally worn on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day,” she said.

“Since reading stories of the many lives that were saved, as a result of carrier pigeons successful flight missions, I now view the humble pigeon very differently And hope viewers of this painting will too.”



Amanda Gosse and friends

The winner was announced by special guest, David Harris MP, the NSW Minister for Veterans to a full room of Club members and friends.

Treasurer John Brogan and Director Greg Hanchard (*see below right*) admired Claire Cusack's oil on board work, Pop Martin- a life shaped by war, language and resilience.' Claire explained that Augustus Edwin Martin (1885-1969) was her English born great grandfather.

"Although I never met him, I have always felt a deep connection to him through the stories passed down in my family.

As a boy his family moved to New Caledonia.

"When WW1 began, he was unable to join the French forces. Determined to serve, he reached out to the British, and the British Consul arranged passage for him and two others to Sydney,

In 1916, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served in the trenches of the Somme.

"Recognising his bilingual skills, the Army transferred him to Artillery Headquarters and Intelligence Corps, where he



Club President John Robertson with NSW Veteran's Minister, David Harris and the winner, Andrew Tomkins

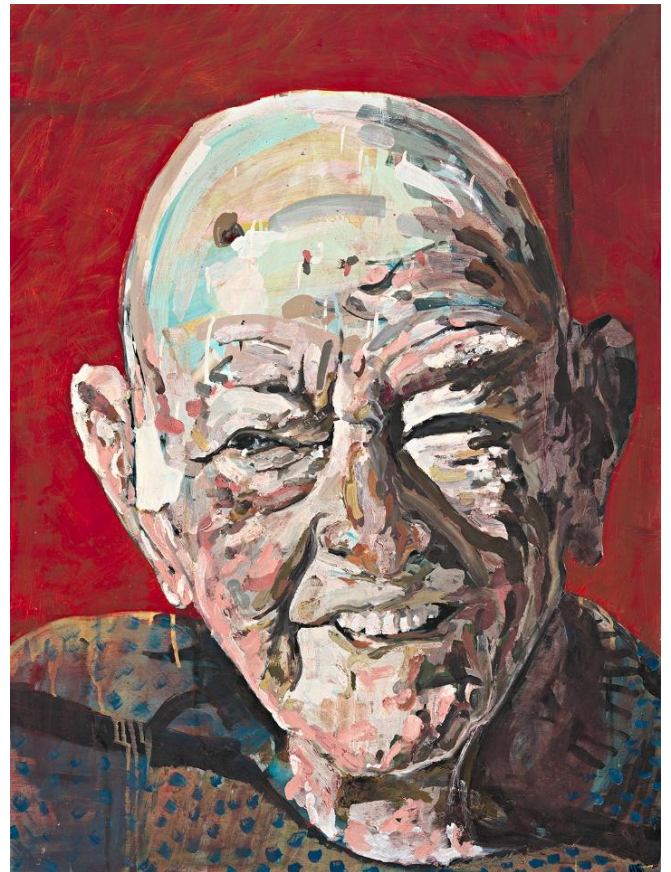


Previous winner Geoff Harvey's acrylic on board triptych "No Man's Land: features the Gallipoli Landscape

coordinated operations with the French forces. His fluency in both languages made him a vital link between the allied troops.

"Grandad" by Henry Kerr, an oil on board portrait of his grand-father John Alex Seaton MBE and Polar Medal. Tasmanian born Mr Seaton (1927-2020) served in Korea with the RAAF and was involved in establishing airstrips in the Pacific. In 1956 he wintered at Mawson Station with the first ever RAAF crew to do so with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition. He flew inland from Mawson and discovered what was then thought to be the world's biggest glacier, the Lambert Glacier. Seaton Glacier is named after him in the north-west part of King Edward VIII Bay.

"My grandad's legacy is one of dedicated service to his country and to aviation. He was a skilled pilot, a decorated veteran and a successful businessman. His life was a testament to his passion for flying and dedication to service, but also to us, his family. After leaving the RAAF John Seaton established Solomon Islands Airways .



Henry Kerr's "Grandad"



James Stickland's poignant oil on canvas "The Spirit lives on" which was inspired by him attending an Anzac Day Dawn Service at Mooloolaba



Julianne Ross Allcorn's colourful "on the Edge"

Getting the USA into WW2

With the new US Administration showing signs of returning their country to a more isolationist stance, we look at the Roosevelt Years and how isolationism was promoted on the one hand, but covered up by covert operations in both Canada and China under an administration that feared the rise of totalitarian regimes in Germany and Japan.

The Clayton Knight Committee (CKC) was founded by former World War One pilots, Canadian Billy Bishop VC and American Clayton Knight in 1940.

Oil millionaire Homer Smith and several German émigrés, who wanted America to join the war against the Axis Powers provided funding for the secret and unlawful commissioning agency. Its mission was to bring Americans to Canada in order to prepare to battle for the Allies while the US was still neutral. Canada allowing the training to take place on their soil is considered the most important contribution it made to the Allied air war. This preceded the US declaring war on Japan and Germany.

The Committee was forced to defend itself from opposing forces such as, "pacifists and isolationists, the FBI and President Franklin Roosevelt".

Founding

The Clayton Knight Committee (CKC) was founded in late 1940 when Hitler was enforcing the expansionist policy on Europe. Britain, along with her Commonwealth countries recognized that in order to halt him, they had to establish a dominant air force. So, Canada, Australia, Britain, and New Zealand created the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) also called the 'Empire Air Training Scheme' with plans to prepare and instruct 150,000 potential airmen.

Each country had responsibility for its varying aspects, such as aircraft engines (Britain), trainers (Britain), cost of elementary trainers (Canada) etc.

Well-known Canadian WW1 air ace Billy Bishop was in charge of developing the BCATP. He decided to link with the burgeoning US aviation industry and to get around the American neutrality proponents So, he contacted Clayton

Knight who had broad contacts in US aviation circles. Their committee, using brochures and word of mouth enlisted over 10,000 Americans into the Royal Canadian Airforce (RCAF) before the USA entered WW2.

The CKC's requirements for pilots were considered lenient by established Britain's Royal Airforce pilots. Some American pilots exaggerated their flying hours to gain acceptance, resulting in the CKC rejecting 86% of the pilot applications.

Canadian Homer Smith who flew in WW1 with Britain's Royal Airforce, aided the CKC financially and with contacts to airline presidents, flying school owners and Civil Aeronautics Authority officials. WWI flyer C.R. Fowler also played a role in the Committee.

CKC expenses were funded through a rotating bank account, which was created in Smith's name.

Knight and Bishop soon reported signing up 36 pilot trainers for the whole BCATP, which had started recruitment in Manhattan. Another obstacle was the possibility of losing American citizenship for anyone who pledged loyalty to the British monarch when entering the RCAF.



After a briefing by Canada, the State Department agreed that instituting an agreement to adhere to RCAF rules for the length of their service would get around this problem.

Bishop spent months in London in 1940, working with Winston Churchill on development plans.

The initial CKC headquarters was in New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Later it expanded to nine cities across America.

In May 1940, the Committee met American military leaders Major General Henry H Arnold (1886-1950) who trained under the Wright Brothers and was the third US accredited pilot and Rear Admiral John Henry Tower (1885-1955) and early naval aviator. Arnold provided the Committee with a list of failed candidates from American training efforts who could be given a second chance.

The CKC kept a low profile to evade possible obstruction by German agents and the F.B.I. and neutrality proponents

The Committee needed a way to obtain help from the President, despite his pre-1940 Presidential campaign undertakings to prevent America from going to war.

Clayton Knight had to cover up his covert occupation. He used his art and journalistic contacts to work as a "special correspondent for the Associated Press," which posed as a guise from his family. Knight maintained his aviation artwork contributions to publications such as *The Saturday Evening Post*.

The CKC helped American pilots and civilian instructor crossing the border into Canada to join the BCATP's Air Observer Schools and Elementary Flying Training Schools to obtain the proper documentation.

Those who ended up in contact with the CKC were offered positions in the RCAF or RAF or civilian jobs as elementary training instructors, staff pilots, or RAF ferry pilots.

The CKC kept as few records as possible and ceased lending travel money to potential recruits in 1940 due to the American State Department and the F.B.I. blocking its work. So, the Dominion Aeronautical Association was formed in January 1941 to create a buffer between the RCAF and the committee, which could then seek personnel for civilian positions.

Eventually, the State Department asked the Canada Department of External affairs to not shut the CKC down, provided it obeyed American law.

The CKC's financial conduct and Homer Smith's status on the RCAF reserve list caused major problems. Travel loans were not repaid by potential candidates, which meant they were technically gifts and unfortunately providing funds for an American to join a foreign armed service violated laws against recruiting U.S. nationals.

As Smith was on the RCAF reserve list, he was violating laws requiring the registration of agents working for foreign governments so they only warned Knight and Smith to keep a low profile.

While Roosevelt, as a Presidential candidate did not want to alienate neutrality proponents, Congress passed *The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940*, (the Burke-Wadsworth Act) which was the first peacetime conscription in US history. This Act required all men aged 21 and under 36 to register with local draft boards.



A Clayton Knight drawing

Privately, President Roosevelt aided CKC operations and ensured that the Committee's efforts remained within public policy parameters. Roosevelt wanted to thwart the Nazi Abwehr (military counterintelligence) spy network that had infiltrated America. Historians believe that the CKC helped curb German spy rings in New York City.

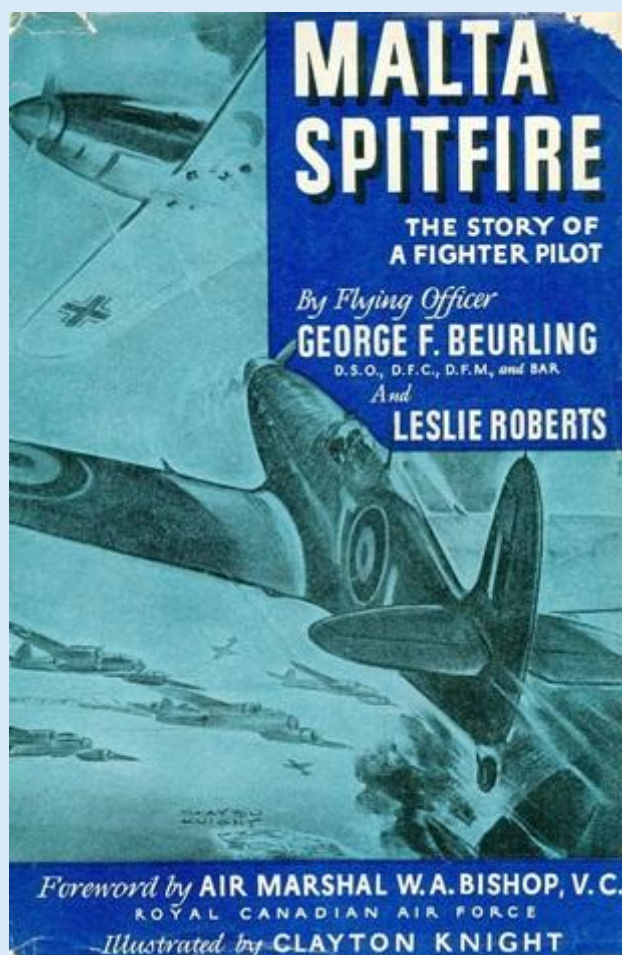
Transfer of Americans to the American military

In 1941, immediately after the US proclaimed war, a *Recruiting Train* headed to Canada. Americans wanting to transfer to the United States Armed

Services could do so through the deal Roosevelt had made with the CKC. About 20% of the Americans serving with the RCAF enlisted with the US Armed Forces, while the balance stayed in the RCAF for the rest of WW2.

On July 10, 1946, Clayton Knight was awarded the Order of the British Empire [OBE] for conspicuous service to England during WWI and WWII. The award was presented to him on board the Queen Mary Ocean liner, docked in New York harbor, as this award must be presented on British land.

Clayton Knight died on July 17, 1969.



"Malta Spitfire" by RCAF F/O George F. Beurling, DSO, DFC, DFM and Bar and Leslie Roberts. The forward in this June 1943 book was by Air Marshal W.A. Bishop, V.C. and fully illustrated by Clayton Knight.

The Flying Tigers helped fight Japan

In April 1941, President Roosevelt quietly sanctioned the American Volunteer Groups air units, organized by the United States government to aid the Nationalist Government of China against Japan in the Second Sino-Japanese war (1937-45).

Roosevelt allowed the creation of the secret *Special Air Unit* of three air combat groups equipped with American aircraft and run by pilots and support staff from America's Army, Navy and Marines led by retired US airman, Claire Lee Chennault (1893-1958) who, in 1937, had become an advisor to the Chinese Nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek and Lauchlin Currie (1902-93) a young Canadian born economist in the Roosevelt White House. They proposed a small air group of 500 combat aircraft, but this was cut to 200 fighters and 66 light bombers.

Chennault was ostensibly the Director of a Chinese Air Force flight school. Initially, the Soviet Union supplied fighter and bomber squadrons, but these were mostly withdrawn by the summer of 1940. Chiang then asked for American combat aircraft and pilots, sending Chennault to Washington as an adviser to China's ambassador and Chiang's brother-in-law, T.V. Soong.

Chennault spent the 1940–1941 winter in Washington, supervising the purchase of 100 Curtiss P-40 fighters and the recruiting of 100 pilots and some 200 ground crew and administrative personnel to form the 1st AVG while laying the groundwork for further bomber and fighter groups, although Pearl Harbour stopped them being engaged.

Currie was appointed special advisor on economic affairs to the White House in July 1939 to advise on enhancing accelerated peacetime (and later wartime) production plans until the end of the Roosevelt administration. In

January 1941, he was sent to China for discussions with Chiang Kai-shek of the Koumintang and Zhou En Lai of the Communist Party. Currie was funded by the Chinese Government to preserve USA public neutrality. Currie organized a large training program in the USA for Chinese pilots in the Sino-Japanese War and expedited foundation of the *American Volunteer Group* of the Republic of China Airforce, notably the 1st AVG, who became known as the *Flying Tigers*.

In May 1941, he presented a paper on Chinese aircraft requirements which was accepted as it highlighted the role a Chinese might play in defending Singapore, Burma and the Philippines against Japan, as well as the potential for strategic bombing of targets in Japan. Historians have linked his actions coupled with his strategies to tighten economic sanctions against Japan as being partially responsible for provoking Japan's Pearl Harbour raid.

The *Flying Tigers* were equipped with Curtiss P-40B Warhawk aircraft, marked with Chinese colours and issued with initial orders to bomb Japan and defend the Republic of China. The Flying Tigers arrived in China from April 1941.



Curtiss P-40B Warhawk aircraft, marked with Chinese colours

Several delays resulted in the AVG first flying into combat on December 20, 1941, just days after the Pearl Harbour attack and the USA declaring war. Group members of the three squadrons of 30 planes were paid three times the United States pay rates and trained in Burma. They were officially members of the Republic of China Air Force. They included 60 Navy and Marine Corp pilots and 39 US Army pilots who carried civilian passports and sailed from San Francisco on Dutch ships bound for Rangoon, Burma.

Chennault set up a schoolhouse that was made necessary because many pilots had "lied about their flying experience, claiming pursuit experience when they had flown only bombers and sometimes much less powerful aeroplanes."

Nine were Chinese-American aircraft mechanics recruited from America's Chinatowns and later, two other Chinese-Americans were hired, a Ford Motor truck specialist and a doctor, raising the total to eleven.

As Chiang Kai-shek did not speak English, nor Chennault Chinese, all communications between the two men were routed through the leader's wife, Madame Chiang, as she was known to Americans, and she was designated the group's "Honorary Commander."

The group first saw combat in that December 20 raid. Their successes were revealed to the US media at a time when the news in the USA was dominated with depressing reports of defeat at the hands of the Japanese forces. AVG pilots earned official credit and received combat

bonuses for destroying 296 enemy aircraft, while losing only 14 pilots.

In July 1942 the AVG was disbanded and replaced by the 23rd Fighter Group of the US Army Air Force. Late it became part of the General Chennault commanded US 14th Airforce.

Chennault preached a radically different approach to air combat based on his study of Japanese tactics and equipment. He adopted the tactics used by Soviet pilots in China during the undeclared 1939 Soviet-Japanese border conflicts.

The AVG had no ranks, so no division existed between officers and enlisted men.

The Flying Tigers benefited from the country's warning network, called "the best air-raid warning system in existence". Starting from areas in Free China, in hundreds of small villages, in lonely outposts, in hills and caves, stretching from near Canton through all Free China to the far northwest, was a maze of alarm stations equipped with radios and telephones that gave instant warning of the approach of Japanese planes.



About 100 Flying Tiger Curtiss P-40 painted with a large shark face copied from the German Luftwaffe were crated and sent to Burma on third country freighters during spring 1941. AVG fighter aircraft were on the front of the aircraft. adopted the shark face from German pilots of the Luftwaffe's Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighters in Crete.

Previous Winners

Winner 2024: "The Pity of War" by Luke Cornish

Winner 2023: "Ray's Room" by Andrew Tomkins

Winner 2022: "Along the ride to Damascus" by Deirdre Bean

Winner 2021: "Forgotten Heroes" by Geoff Harvey

Winner 2020: "Breathe" by Alison Mackay

Winner 2019: "War Pigeon Diaries" by Martin King

Winner 2018: "Mont St Quentin" Steve Lopes

Winner 2017: "The Sphinx, Perpetual Peace" Amanda Penrose Hart

Winner 2016: "Yeah, Mate" Jiawei Shen with his painting

Winner 2015: "Boy Soldiers" by Sally Robinson.

Winner 2014: "Gallipoli evening 2013" by Idris Murphy.

Winner 2013: "Dog in a Gas Mask" by Peter Wegner.

Winner 2012: "Trench Interment" by Geoff Harvey.

Winner 2011: "Sacrifice" by Hadyn Wilson.

Winner 2010: "The dead march here today" by Raymond Arnold.

Winner 2009: "Smoke/PinkLandscape/Shovel" by Euan Macleod.

Winner 2008: "Max Carment, War Veteran (The last portrait)" by Tom Carment.

Winner 2007: "Glorus Fallen" by Lianne Gough.

Winner 2006: "Ataturk's Legacy" by Margaret Hadfield.



Kristin Hardiman's oil on canvas "Through my Eyes" depicts 100 year old WW2 veteran Allan Godfrey



Alex Jobbagy's "Sacrifice"

"Pride In Our Heritage"



"The Landing" 25th April, 1915

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	<u>17,924</u>
Total	<u>26,003</u>

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.