



Gallipoli

1915 - 2015

Centenary

How did we end up at Gallipoli?

Gallipoli has certainly grown to become a symbol of our national identity, but how many of us actually know how we ended up there?

Like most things, it largely came down to chance.

The Ottoman Empire had joined the Central Powers to form the Triple Alliance, with Turkey formally entering World War I on 28 October 1914 with the bombing of Russian Black Sea ports. The Allies then declared war on the Ottoman Empire a week later, on 4 November.

Winston Churchill, who later became British Prime Minister, devised the Gallipoli campaign to knock Turkey out of the War, which he saw as a precursor to thumping Germany and ending the conflict.

British and colonial forces landed on the beaches of Gallipoli at dawn on 25 April 1915, seeking to secure a route to relieve their ally, Imperial Russia, in the east, and to seize a strategic advantage by capturing Constantinople, renamed Istanbul in 1923.

Australian diggers had been sent to Egypt

and, being stationed there, were one of the few bodies of troops in the larger geographic location. And that's why they were shipped to Gallipoli ...

The Ottomans set up defensive fortifications along the Gallipoli Peninsula; it was a flawed campaign and the attackers were eventually repulsed. When the campaign ended with a Turkish victory some nine months later, 44,000 Allied soldiers had died, of whom 8,709 were Australians.

Remembering those who played a part

When we think of Gallipoli and the morning of 25 April 1915, it's fair to say most of us have images of brave young men charging up steep slopes and being cut down by relentless enemy fire.

But an important element of the overall picture that is often overlooked is the courageous and dedicated Australian nurse attending to the hundreds of wounded men on the decks and in the confined wards of a hospital ship.

Of these Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) members were some 40 from South Australia, most from Adelaide and doubtless a good number of them from the City of West Torrens.

As Major Christopher Roe, Manager at the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOS) in Keswick said, "our nurses were involved right from the moment of the Gallipoli landings".

"The nurses were there throughout, caring for the casualties in the transport ships anchored off-shore," he said.

"The wounded came in an endless stream, day and night, some barely able to walk, others on stretchers, many unconscious through loss of blood. The situation was compounded by a shortage of medical supplies and a severe lack of fresh water.

"In short, they were ill-equipped for the battle that unfolded.

"But despite these challenges and the constant threat of Turkish shelling or torpedoes, the exhausted nurses cleaned, bandaged, warmed and comforted their patients and, for the next nine months, they worked tirelessly, attending to the growing number of casualties in hospitals on the nearby Greek islands of Imbros and Lemnos.

"Their courageous and pivotal role should never be underestimated or forgotten."

Major Roe, a long-time resident of the City of West Torrens, also shed light on the general mood of the time and, importantly, why Australian soldiers were arguably the best equipped of all colonial troops.

"When Germany invaded neutral Belgium on 4 August, Britain was drawn into the conflict, along with the rest of the Empire, including Australia, and South Australians gathered in King William Street, anxious for news.

"The Advertiser reported the following day that everything was ready for mobilisation, including motor cars and railway trucks, and South Australians were quick to declare their loyalty to the King. Young men flooded the enlistment centres and shops were kept busy selling patriotic flags and badges.

"The small percentage of those eligible for service who didn't sign up were viewed as unpatriotic and would, on occasion, get

a white feather mailed to them from an anonymous source; the white feather being the symbol of cowardice.

"Indeed, the Prime Minister who entered office shortly after Australia joined the war effort, Andrew Fisher, famously pledged that the country would 'stand beside the mother country to help and defend her to the last man and the last shilling'.

"And that pretty much captured the mood of the time."

Turning to our readiness for battle, Major Roe said the Universal Training Scheme made the creation of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) relatively easy. Under the scheme, all boys aged between 12 and 14 were enrolled as junior cadets, those in the 14 to 18 age category senior cadets and young men between 18 and 25 years of age were required to register with the Home Defence Militia.

"Before World War I, Australia was the only English-speaking country in the world with a system of compulsory military training during peace time," he said.

"Add to that the fact that most of those who enlisted were labourers, in the towns or on the land. They were young and physically fit, many had great horsemanship skills and most knew how to use a rifle, making them more war-ready than most men from the colonies."

This special issue of Talking Points to commemorate the Centenary of Gallipoli has been produced by the City of West Torrens with the assistance of members of the local community. Council thanks all those involved in providing information for this publication, in particular: John Claxon and Major Christopher Roe from the Army Museum of South Australia, Christeen Schoepf, Robert Mundy from Hilton RSL, Ray Paterson from Lockleys RSL, Mary Readman, Kevin Kaeding from Thebarton Historical Society and John Andrewartha and Helen Prettijohn from West Torrens Historical Society.

Editorial and Design
Editorial: Word Cafe. Design: Nerissa Nicholson.

Printing
Finsbury Green.

Stock
Titan Plus Satin, carbon neutral - 113 gsm.

Photography
John Kruger Hot Images.

Delivery
Salmat

westtorrens.sa.gov.au

Message from Mayor John Trainer

‘Those we send off to risk everything on our behalf should be able to do so in the knowledge that they will not be forgotten and that they and their families will be cared for by organisations like the RSL, Veterans Affairs and Legacy.’

Mayor John Trainer with his late father’s medals, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

As we pause to commemorate the centenary of the landings at Gallipoli, let us all reflect on just how cataclysmic was the destruction of World War I, destroying four European Empires and devastating the lives of millions of people, including 10 million who never returned from killing fields that inflicted death and disability on an industrial scale so great that it can numb our comprehension.

We should never lose sight of the fact that every one of these casualties, whether military or civilian, was an individual just like ourselves - but who unlike us had the misfortune to have lived during that tragic waste of humanity.

Millions of these countless young men, driven by patriotism or a sense of adventure, would never return and were buried far from home, often anonymously under headstones which read “Known only under God”. Others were acknowledged only by their name on walls like the 72,000 I have seen listed as “Missing” on the Thiepval Monument in the Somme, or the 90,000 on the Menin Gate at Ypres. Their bodies were never recovered, having totally vanished from existence, pulverised into the mud by destructive artillery bombardments.

A further 20 million were casualties of war in other ways, shattered physically or mentally. Others who participated in that Great War were more fortunate, among them my father John Trainer (snr), who disguised his age to sign up in the British Army as a 17-year-old. Wounded at the Somme, with his thigh full of shrapnel, tiny

fragments of which he was still extracting half a century later, he was one of millions unable to return to civilian life in the UK.

He migrated to Australia. Deeply affected by his experiences, he became very active in the early years of the RSL in his adopted land, and was the driving force behind the creation of the Field of Remembrance you see on North Terrace each November 11. He instilled in me, from a young age, a strong appreciation of our ANZACS, and of Remembrance Day. I was raised to be extremely respectful of the roles played by our Australian troops, and, as Mayor, I am especially so for those from the City of West Torrens.

Our community appreciates the impacts of our military involvements and acknowledges the sacrifices made. The monuments and other symbols of remembrance erected across our community bear silent testimony to the fallen. With the local RSL clubs, we support the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services in the Memorial Park next to the Civic Centre, where you will find the Cross of Sacrifice Memorial, a Boer War Memorial, a Memorial for Greek veterans of WWII and the National Serviceman’s Association Memorial.

Also in West Torrens are ANZAC Highway itself, the Avenue of Honour (individually dedicated trees along Sir Donald Bradman Drive), the large Memorial Rolls in the Thebarton Town Hall, and leased facilities such as the Hilton RSL building and the National Serviceman’s clubrooms in Keswick. Thebarton Oval, constructed

after World War I by the then Thebarton Council, was originally known as Thebarton Memorial Oval.

Those we send off to risk everything on our behalf should be able to do so in the knowledge that they will not be forgotten and that they and their families will be cared for by organisations like the RSL, Veterans Affairs and Legacy.

In recent years, among the younger generations there has an increased interest in ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, and the interest in Gallipoli has spread to a greater understanding of our role in other theatres of war, such as Fromelles, Tobruk, Kakoda and Long Tan.

As we commemorate the ANZAC tradition this year on the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, I encourage you all to make a special effort to be part of the traditional Dawn Service wherever you happen to be on the day. I will be fortunate enough to be on a ship anchored off ANZAC Cove as the sun rises on 25 April 2015 and I anticipate a truly moving, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Having been allowed that opportunity, I feel that I owe it to my father and to his millions of comrades - and their foes - to be there on that very special ANZAC Day. If he could, I know he would be there.

May each of us in our own way make sure that We Will Remember Them. Lest We Forget.

Message from Hilton RSL President Robert Mundy



'I am reminded that these poor people landed in the wrong place ... and had it been the right spot, many of those killed might have survived.'

As someone who has been fortunate enough to travel to Gallipoli, each ANZAC Day is filled with especially powerful thoughts and emotions, as well as deep reflection on just what our fellow Australians went through and the enormous bravery they displayed as they looked up the hill only to see machine guns bearing down on them.

I have visited and stood silently alongside all the graves and gravestones at Lone Pine and down on the beaches, mourning the many young lives taken. I have remembered the sacrifices they made and I have spared a thought for those who returned from World War I, some so impacted by the horrors of war that they would never be the same; all of whom have since died.

I am reminded that these poor people landed in the wrong place ... and had it been the right spot, many of those killed might have survived. I remember, too, that our friends from across 'the ditch' were there beside us and I think it is only fitting that our ANZAC Day to commemorate the centenary of Gallipoli includes our New Zealand comrades.

That's why this year our Dawn Service at the West Torrens Memorial Gardens will be a little different and special, as we will seek to convey the full ANZAC spirit by including a performance of the haka and the playing of the New Zealand national anthem, 'God Defend New Zealand' immediately before our anthem, 'Advance Australia Fair', closes proceedings.

Furthermore, the Hilton RSL has taken the decision to donate the ANZAC pack – received from the Department of Veteran Affairs and containing, among others, a 'We Remember' ANZAC publication, a 'Memories and Memorabilia' publication and a selection of games and learning activities – to a local high school.

We trust it will be of educational value while, at the same time, instilling in the young students a deeper understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices made by those at Gallipoli and keeping the ANZAC flame alive in the current generation of Australians.

In closing, I extend a warm invitation to all in the community to come along and be a part of this very special commemoration – and remember that the name and acronym ANZAC was born at Gallipoli 100 years ago.

After the service, please join us for a hot breakfast at the Hilton RSL, kindly funded by donations from Federal and State Government MPs and the City of West Torrens.

Message from Lockleys RSL President Ray Paterson

'We do not celebrate victory or glorify war. Rather, it's the human spirit, the spirit of ANZAC, that we celebrate.'

As we approach the centenary of Gallipoli, it is with a great deal of sadness that the Lockleys RSL will pass the day without a formal commemoration or service.

Our numbers have dwindled in recent years and of the 25 or so current members, most are at an age where mobility is increasingly challenging, forcing us to dramatically curtail our events.

But our thoughts will certainly be with those gallant men and women from across Australia – and particularly from this part of Adelaide's western suburbs – who served our country with such honour and dedication all those years ago.

It is also heartening to know that the spirit of the ANZACs is alive and well among the younger generation of the district, who are increasingly engaging with the ANZAC story with renewed vigour and interest.

The days of the younger folk shunning ANZAC Day have now been replaced with a growing number of young people – even school children – who respectfully attend dawn services and march in the parades each year. They understand how special and significant the day is and are grateful to those who have allowed their generation of Australians to grow up in a peaceful, democratic country.

I also believe it is important on this day to remember the contributions made by our Indigenous Australians, many of whom were unfairly treated, and to commit ourselves to a future where they are fully recognised and given a fair go.

Ultimately, remembering the ANZACs is a personal matter, each one of us reflecting on it in our own way. But what we all share, I am sure, is the Australian view that ANZAC Day is not a commemoration of the victories or defeats of the Australian armed forces. Instead, we simply remember that ordinary Australian men and women like you and me – with mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, husbands and wives and myriad friends and relatives – were prepared to make extraordinary personal sacrifices, many giving their precious lives, for the freedom and quality of life we enjoy today.

We do not celebrate victory or glorify war. Rather, it's the human spirit, the spirit of ANZAC, that we celebrate.





The Whaler is typical of the first craft to take soldiers to the beachhead at ANZAC Cove. This Whaler is on loan to the Army Museum from the Maritime Museum of SA.

Army Museum turns spotlight on C

The Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA) in Keswick is the place to be during the next few months as the state's custodian of all things army turns its attention to Gallipoli and the role Australia played in the conflict – on the front and back at home – 100 years ago.

Among its displays – which learned and eloquent volunteer John Claxon is only too happy to share with visitors while providing insightful commentary and answering just about any question thrown his way – is an area set aside for the Cheer-Up Society and a fascinating exhibit that sheds light on just what was required, at least initially, of young men hoping to enlist.

So what were these enlistment criteria for men of the 10th Battalion from South Australia who, as one of the very first to go ashore, landed on the beaches at Gallipoli before dawn on 25 April 1915?

An interesting display at the start of the exhibition tells us that the men had to:

- Be British subjects.
- Be between 18 and 35 years of age.
- Be free of skin markings, key among them D (for deserter) and BC (for bad character).
- Be single.
- Be at least five foot six inches in height.
- Have a chest measurement of 34 inches or more.

“These soon changed as the war unfolded, the enormity of the task presented itself, casualties mounted and more troops were required,” John said.

“It wasn't long before married and older men, along with Indigenous men, became eligible for enlistment and the height and chest requirements were also relaxed.

“And as few of the citizens of the time had birth certificate papers, it was well-nigh impossible for the authorities to identify and reject young men aged 16 or 17 – or even younger – who lied about their age to join what many thought would be an adventure of a lifetime.

“But there was one requirement the authorities stringently enforced throughout the war year ... and that was the skin markings.”

It is estimated that about 38 per cent of eligible men enlisted, and given that many men were in what were deemed 'essential jobs' which made them ineligible, this was a particularly high percentage. The men were driven by a number of factors, key among them an overwhelming feeling of pro-British patriotism, a sense of adventure and the good pay on offer.

“Back then, some 95 per cent of young men in South Australia and across the City of West Torrens had either been born in England or had English parents, so

their strong allegiance to England came naturally,” John continued.

“Many of the young men were further motivated by adventure and the romanticism associated with travelling to far-off, exotic lands. Indeed, the general view among most was that this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see places like Egypt and France. They had little or no understanding of what lay ahead, they expected it would all be over in a matter of months and they'd be home for Christmas.

“And at five shillings a day – plus an additional daily shilling if abroad – the money was excellent. South Australia back then was in the grips of devastating drought, unemployment was high and times were tough – and the military provided an employment solution with wages they could but dream of earning in civilian life.

“The pay also compared most favourably with the five pennies a day their British counterparts received and, over time, became a source of some resentment as Australian diggers were able to treat women to gifts such as stockings and chocolates, which were way beyond the reach of the average British soldier.”

On the home front, the AMOSA exhibition has much of a sizeable room dedicated to the Cheer-Up Society, many of whose volunteer members hailed from the inner

Remembering our local veterans

In the process of putting together this publication in honour of the Centenary of Gallipoli, Council embarked on a task to list the names of all local residents who had served their country during World War I. The following list has been created from various sources, but we believe that there are others who should be included.

If you know of someone from West Torrens who served during World War I, and we can verify their service by checking available records, please let us know so that we can include their names in a special commemoration, to be unveiled on Remembrance Day in 2018 in the West Torrens' War Memorial Gardens.

More information about this can be found on Council's website, www.westtorrens.sa.gov.au/veterans or information can be sent to you by phoning Council on 8416 6333. Information can also be found in the Hamra Centre Library and Council's Civic Centre.

Cowandilla

Poole, Benjamin Clement Garfield

Fulham

Daymond, James Francis

Dyson, Samuel

Edwards, Charles Henry Jasper

Jones, Albert Edward

Jones, George Randall

Mahoney, Joseph David

Mahoney, Lloyd Leonard

Noble, Alan Campbell

Noble, Claude Ashley

Noble, George

Noble, Moreton Stanley

Noble, Stanley Thomas

Rivett, Colin Christo

Smith, George

Smith, Wilfred Gordon

Stanford, Clarence Howard

Stanford, Morris Henwood

Stanford, Reginald Bowen

White, George Gilmore

Hilton

Blann, Percy

Blyth, John Alexander

Brown, Ernest Frederick

Bullock, John James

Burgess, William

Carty, Robert Charles

Cleave, Stanley Edward

Dowle, George Albert

Drury, Henry

Gumpatzes, Joseph Thomas

Hancock, Allan Lyons

Hughes, Walter

Jones, Reginald James

Kernot, Loris

Nicholls, Frederick Gordon

Norman, Harold

Potter, Edwin James

Smith, Albert Edward

Spurgin, Edgar Arnold

Tidy, John Frederick

Tobin, Martin

Tregeagle, Boyce Gaverlock

Wills, Victor Harold

Keswick

Dawson, Lawrence Walter

Dover, Daniel

Everard, Ruby Clarice

Everard, William Innes

Gaskell, Allison

Jury, Ralph

Langkow, Theodore Hardwick

Martyr, William Colin

Mohr, John George

Osborne, Albert

Strong, George

Williams, Francis Gatehouse

Wylie, Frank

Lockleys

Cowell, Leonard James

Maughan, Melville Eric Kyffin

Noble, Roy Bevius

Prettejohn, Gillard John

Prettejohn, Hurtle Charles

Rowell, Lindsay Hugh

Marleston

Nelson, Horace George

Mile End

Caldicott, Elsie May

Charlesworth, Clifford George

Charter, Jack Thomas

Cox, Norman

Davies, William Leslie

Day, Kenneth Hooper

Dickens, Harold Gordon

Ellis, Hartley Edwin

Fielder, Richard Claude

Forwood, Edgar William

Forwood, Reginald Ernest

French, Thomas Henry

Fuller, Percival Arnold Joseph

Hewitt, Alfred John Shaw

Heyen, Herman Peter Otto

Holland, Ernest Alfred

Ingham, Alfred Cyril

Marchant, Roby Frederick

McCartney, Thomas

McMahon, Leopold

Myers, Hector Norman

Nolan, Daniel Thomas

Parsons, Albert Edward Alexander

Peattie, William David Goodenough

Pegler, George Bentley

Penhall, John

Piening, Leopold George

Piening, Leslie Henry

Quinn, Douglas Greer

Radbone, Thomas Benjamin

Rehn, Percy Norman

Riggs, Harold

Schrader, Ludwig Wickham

Self, Harold Lewis Lenderyon

Smerdon, Hubert Ronald

Smith, Cecil George

Smith, Edward George

Smith, Leslie Edward John

Smith, Lester Bryce

Webber, John

Whiteford, William Jeffreys

Wilson, Lloyd Arnold

Wyett, Percy Seabert

Wyett, Sidney Field

Plympton

Burgess, Bertie St Clair

Carter, Frederick Newman

Codling, Sidney James

Codling, Walter Edward

Copley, Edward John

Copley, Stanley Livingstone

Copley, William Harold

Errington, Arthur

Errington, Claude Ernest Harold

Fenwick, Leighton

Fowler, Alfred John

Franklin, Benjamin

Hambidge, George Russell

Hassam, Reginald Snell

Hudd, John Yeo

Humphery, Louis Morton

Humphery, Richard

Kennerick, John Henry

Kennerick, William

Martin, John Claude

Martin, Royden

McDermott, Percy John

Nielsen, Lanfair Emil

Pearse, William George

Quinn, Frederick George

Read, James Roy

Rule, Clarence George

Rule, Victor Francis

Sandford, Albert William

Sandford, Richard Henry

Simmons, Henry

Sparkes, Horace William Colston

Streeter, Walter

Trevorah, Ernest Henry

Ward, Bernhardt Richard

Washington, Royden George Clifton

Watson, Arthur Harrison Edward

Watson, Benjamin Charles

Watson, Fred Keith

Webb, George Frederick Howard

Woodhead, Sydney William

Richmond

Baldock, Frank Leonard

Bodinner, Charles

Boucher, William Henry

Brook, Frank Richmond

Bruce, Harold Hooper

Bullock, Frances Reginald

Butler, Randal Herman

Challis, Herbert John

Deacon, Walter Richard

Freer, Richard George

Frith, Ernest Leslie

Goode, William George

Jarvis, Tasman

Jones, Leonard Sidney

Lewis, Henry Francis

Reese, Frederick Arnold

Simpson, George Robert

Thompson, Thomas Frederick

Thorpe, Leslie George

Wheaton, Eric Reuben

Thebarton

Bailey, Herbert Stanley

Blesing, Charles Frederick

Broderick, William

Bruce, Clarence Andrew

Campbell, Clarence Hart

Canney, Ernest Tolcher

Cantwell, William

Carmody, Michael Davitt

Cathro, Frank

Cathro, Henry

Cathro, Richard Seton

Caton, Horace

Caust, Walter Roy

Cave, Alfred George
Charlesworth, Howard William
Childs, Gordon William
Collaton, Francis Patrick
Collins, Leslie George
Considine, Daniel Ward Aloysius
Cooper, Ernest Walter
Cooper, Ernest Walter
Cooper, Harold Frederick
Costello, William Frederick
Crafter, Alexander James
Daniels, Charles Ernest
Day, Walter Unwin
Dickson, Charles Edward
Dillon, Arthur Ernest
Douglas, Harry Robert
Douglas, Hugh Norman
Douglas, Tom Edgar
Douglas, Wallace Gordon
Dowle, Ernest John
Drew, Harold Redvers Robert
Drummond, William Harris
Dunbar, Sydney Murray
Dunhill, Wilfred Robert
Eastwood, Archibald Harrold
Eastwood, Herbert Richard
Eastwood, William Lawrence
Edwards, Clifton Roy David
Eldridge, Ernest Thomas
Eldridge, Leslie
Ellis, Robert Clarence Richard
Evans, Robert Stodden
Filsell, Harry Edgar
Filsell, Percy John
Fitzpatrick, John David
Ford, Dennis
Ford, James
Ford, William
Foreman, Cyril William Ernest
Foreman, Frank Edward
Foreman, George Thomas Raymond
Frost, Raymond Frederick George
Gardiner, George Victor
Gitsham, Charles Clifford
Gleed, Ernest Charles
Goldfinch, Arnold Vivian
Goldfinch, Harry Oscar
Goodliffe, Arthur David
Gould, William Charles
Green, David John
Green, Harold John
Green, Lance Francis Churchill
Grogan, John Edmund
Guppy, Walter John
Hamilton, Donald Smith
Hardwick, Frederick Ebenezer
Harley, John Pearson
Harnden, Roy Rupert
Havey, Francis
Healy, John

Hendrick, Edward Thomas Evans
Hewish, Henry John
Hewlett, Sydney Roy
Hoban, Alexander Martin
Hodson, Ernest Alfred
Holmes, Jack
Holzberger, Herman William
Hounslow, Clifford George
Howley, Martin
Howley, Patrick Thomas
Hutton, Thomas Alexander
James, William John Harold
Jarman, Herbert Charles
Jennings, Horace Leslie
Johns, Harold William Westcott
Jones, George Jeffrey James
Jones, William Victor
Julge, Percy Emil
Kay, James Francis
Kilsby, Edward
Kingswood, Francis Stanley
Kinsman, George William
Laing, John
Lee, David William
Lester, John Henry
Lestrange, Phillipe Leon
Lewis, Gilbert
Lewis, Joseph Andrew
Lewis, Norman Neville
Lomas, Sidney Louis
Madden, James Joseph
Madden, William John
Malthouse, Clifton David Roy
Mander, Leonard James
Manning, Clyde Anthony
Mansfield, Benjamin Garner
Marchant, Edward George
Martin, Arthur William John
Martin, Joseph
McCallum, Archibald James Vincent
McGargill, Frederick Roy
Mensforth, George
Miller, Graham
Minerds, Henry Ernest Clifford
Minerds, James Edwin Bell
Moore, Lancelot Roy
Moylan, Aloysius
Murphy, Robert Leo
Myers, Leslie James
Neddermeyer, John Henry Edward
Nunn, Frederick John
Nurse, Arthur Ronald
Nurse, Charles Harold
O'Leary, John William
Pentland, Walter
Perriam, Henry Louis Bennett
Pitman, Harold
Powell, Ernest Clement
Powell, Frederick William
Ramage, Frank James

Rees, Henry Llewellyn
Rice, James Charles Joseph
Rice, Thomas Francis
Richardson, Arnold Victor
Richardson, Victor Roy
Rippon, Frederick Wellington
Rosman, Leslie Roy
Russell, Albert Edward
Russell, Norman John
Ryan, Bernard Aloysius
Sansome, Edward William
Saunders, Edgar Harving
Seaton, Frederick Robinson
Shaw, Frank
Shaw, John
Sheehan, Horatio
Sheehy, Frances Gerald
Shute, David
Shute, David Edward
Silver, Eric Bertram
Silver, Leslie Roy
Sincock, Bertram
Sincock, Horace John
Sincock, James Robert
Slater, Marshall James
Smyth, Matthew Aloysius
Smyth, Owen
Solomon, Douglas
Standish, Alfred James
Supple, Adolphus
Taylor, Ambrose Patrick
Taylor, Frank George
Tester, Albert Ernest
Thompson, Walter Frederick
Threadgold, Robert George
Tiggemann, Frederick Lewis
Tregeagle, William Edwin
Tremellen, Thomas Henry
Tyley, Herbert
Usher, Thomas Albert
Veal, Arthur William George
Veitch, William
Viant, William Evans
Vincent, Edwin Aloysius
Wait, Harold
Walkley, Norman Frank
Walsh, John David
Ward, Spencer Roy
Waters, Allan James
Welch, William John
Welsby, Harold James
Welsby, James
White, Alexander Richard
White, Gordon Edward
White, Herbert
White, William Henry
Whiteford, David John
Whiteford, Harold George
Whitrod, Ernest Edward
Williams, Spencer

Wilson, George Kenneth
Wilson, William Victor
Wright, William Edward

Torrensville

Booker, Hercules Olander
Borthwick, Wilfred James
Brown, Clifford Joseph
Brown, Harold George
Collins, Clement Reuben
Edwards, Harold Roy
Ferres, Thomas
Ferres, Walter Charles
Hancock, Albert Edward
Lodge, Eric Gladstone
Madden, Michael
Mann, Clarence
Miller, Gordon Frederick
Norman, Alfred Ray
Rafferty, Roy
Rawling, Arthur Adrian
Rawnsley, Harold Brittain
Sheffield, Frederick Stanley
Steward, Ernest Norman
Thulborn, David Henry
Tiggeman, William
Tiggemann, Adolph John
Wilson, George Richard
Wyett, Reginald Graham

Underdale

Hardy, Robert Cyril
Hardy, Tom Mayfield
Norman, Hurtle Henry
Norman, Theodore Ronald
Skuse, Arthur Frederick

Sources: A.G. Butler, Special Problems and Services, Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-1918, vol III (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1943), p 890.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Official Yearbook of the Commonwealth of Australia, no 12, 1919 (Melbourne: Albert J Mullett, 1919).

National Archives of Australia - Discovering ANZACS (<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>).





Part of the Hamra Centre Library's poppy collection.

Cheer-Up Hut centrepiece of Library's commemoration program

The Hamra Centre Library has unveiled a program of events to commemorate the Centenary of Gallipoli, with a recreated Cheer-Up Hut as the centrepiece display in the West Torrens Auditorium.

The homage exhibition to the Cheer-Up Hut will remember a uniquely South Australian initiative that owed its success in no small measure to the ladies of what is today the City of West Torrens.

As Library Officer Lynette Bacchus recounts, the Cheer-Up Hut display seeks to distil the Hut's essence through displays of historical material, photographs and memorabilia which describes the history and narrative of the Cheer-Up Society and the West Torrens community's role in it.

"The Cheer-Up Society is uniquely South Australian, and while founded in Adelaide by Unley resident Mrs Alexandrina Seager in November 1914, it was well-supported by volunteers from our council area, who gave freely of their time to provide refreshments and recreation to soldiers being deployed during World War I" Lynette explained.

"To begin with, the mothers, wives, sisters and relatives visited their sons, husbands, brothers and other soldiers at their camp at what is today part of Morphettville Racecourse, where they were undergoing basic training after enlisting.

"The first Hut was soon established, where social events and dances were held for the troops in transit through Adelaide. The Hut also served a three-course meal to the soldiers, for a nominal fee, and over time, other elements such as libraries and pool rooms were added to keep the troops occupied.

"In essence, it was a 'home away from home' for all soldiers," she said.

For a more detailed account of the society and its many huts, see the Cheer-Up Society article on page 12.

Items on display at the recreated Hut will include the long tables the diggers would sit at to enjoy their meals, along with a selection of cutlery, crockery, linen table cloths and vases from those days.

In addition, the Hut's original opening program has been secured and will be on show, as will an invitation to the opening, a memorial booklet and a series of ink stamps used by the volunteers.



The Library has added a special ANZAC collection to its shelves to commemorate the Centenary of Gallipoli.

Historical photographs will also be digitally displayed on the Hamra Centre Library windows overlooking the West Torrens Memorial Gardens and Brooker Terrace and will be illuminated at night.

Adding to the authenticity and mood, a number of audios of original interviews with some of the volunteer ladies of the Cheer-Up Society can be listened to.

Another highlight will be an address and presentation, on various days, by Ms Mary Readman, the great granddaughter of Alexandrina Seager, who will give an insight into her remarkable great grandmother while sharing Cheer-Up Society family stories and memorabilia with the community.

Other collections at the Library to commemorate the centenary of Gallipoli include a special ANZAC Collection, a Violet Collection and a Poppy Collection.

The ANZAC Collection sees the Library enhance its compilation of resources relating to World War I through the purchase of a selection of books, audio books and CDs. The collection numbers about 200 items and is housed in a dedicated area, marked with poppy decals.

All items also carry a poppy emblem on their spines or covers.

The Violet Collection, in turn, will recall Violet Day, established by the Cheer-Up Society in 1915 and commemorated 55 times thereafter to remember those who gave their lives for their country and to raise funds for the Society and its works.

The moving tribute will comprise more than 300 violets, hand-made by members of the community, and will be displayed in the Hamra Centre Library foyer. Each violet represents a soldier from the City of West Torrens area who enlisted during World War I. It will also feature a collection of Violet Day memorabilia such as violet badges.

Similarly, the Poppy Collection is a reminder of Poppy Day, when we reflect on the great loss in war and hope for those left behind. The Library's Poppy Collection will feature a poppy display at the front desk, made up of excess poppies created for the national '5,000 Poppies' initiative.

'5,000 Poppies' is an exciting and ambitious nationwide grassroots community tribute of respect and remembrance started in Melbourne that invited all crafters across Australia to participate by knitting, crocheting or sewing poppies.

The organisers will 'plant' a massive field of handmade poppies in Melbourne's Federation Square on ANZAC Day 2015 as a stunning visual tribute to Australian servicemen and women for more than a century of service in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The organisers had, at the time of writing, gathered more than 100,000 poppies from across Australia and the world, some 700 of which came from the City of West Torrens.

"When we learned of the program, we immediately saw merit in it and spread the word among the community," Lynette said.

"Our local Knitters Group embraced the concept and led the way, followed by many independent members of the community who jumped on board, got knitting and sewing and have dropped off their handmade creations at the Library."

After ANZAC Day 2015, the organisers of '5,000 Poppies' hope to tour the project nationally from 2015 to 2018, with the ultimate aim being to present the entire project to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra as a gift, for all Australians to enjoy.

Archaeologist recalls the dawn of SA's Cheer-Up Society

In her work as a respected historical archaeologist, Port Pirie-based Christeen Schoepf has doubtless spent many hours poring over the written records and oral traditions of events of the past – and none more so than South Australia's role in World War I, in particular the part played by our unique Cheer-Up Society.

Her wealth of experience and information prompted the City of West Torrens to engage her as a special consultant on the project to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli landings and she has been working closely with the team to ensure all exhibits and displays – among them the Cheer-Up Hut and the Violet Collection – are as true to the original as humanly possible.

We thought it apt, then, to speak with Christeen and learn from her how the Cheer-Up Society came into being and the enormous role it played, in both the First World War and the Second World War, before its disbandment in 1947.

In our conversation, she stressed that there would be no poppies in the display but rather a collection of violets as, true to historical fact, poppies were not in use as objects of remembrance until after 1920, whereas Violet Day was instigated by the Cheer-Up Society as a day of remembrance in 1915.

'South Australia soon became a land and sea-based thoroughfare through which many thousands of soldiers and sailors passed.'

"As a bit of historical background, with the outbreak of hostilities, South Australia soon became a land and sea-based thoroughfare through which many thousands of soldiers and sailors passed. Men from the rural and regional areas and from neighbouring states poured in and were trained at Morphettville before embarkation to Egypt," Christeen explained.

"And while the Cheer-Up Society of South Australia's coming into being is correctly credited to Mrs Alexandrina Seager, the genesis of the idea lay not solely with her but with a group of everyday women of which she was a part. They made an important observation while visiting the soldiers of the Second Contingent at the Morphettville Camp and the establishment of the Society on 3 November 1914 was, in fact, a direct response to these observations.

The women noted that the new intake appeared to be almost lost from public

memory in the wake of the jubilant and festive send-off of the First Contingent some weeks earlier. The excitement had clearly died down, the general feeling being that the farewell had happened, it was done and dusted.

"Visitors were few on Sundays and the enlisting men were standing for long periods in the heat of October, waiting their turn without refreshments, food, or shade," Christeen said.

"Once the contingent had filled its ranks, it further became obvious to the women that many were without the basic necessities in a time where such items were not provided by the Army.

"Within the week, a letter from 'The Girl in White', the pseudonym of Miss Edna Rogers, appeared in the Adelaide newspaper, The Register. She told its readers of her visit to the camp and lamented that 'it is a fearful pity that the citizens of our fair city should show such a lack of patriotism.'

"Within the same edition the editor, William Sowden, challenged, 'Who will form the first Cheer-Up Our Boys Society?' The second letter written by Mrs Seager and signed, 'The Woman in Black', appeared the following day and left the readers in no doubt that they had indeed acted apathetically 'towards our boys at Morphettville'.

"Naturally, Mrs Seager took up the challenge and expressed that she would be 'very pleased indeed to become a member.'"

Christeen recalled how this well-played out publicity stunt worked almost immediately and within a matter of days, the Cheer-Up Society formally came into being, its brief being to provide some comforts for the soldiers and sailors leaving for or returning from the front.

Soon a group of almost 100 women volunteers were actively sourcing donations of food and practical items and attending the Morphettville Army Camp several days per week to hold concerts and provide refreshments for the soldiers based there. And by the time the war ended, almost 100 sub-branches of the Cheer-Up Society had opened in rooms, halls and other buildings in practically every small town and railway siding in South Australia and included a membership of thousands of women.

"As Honorary Organiser, Mrs Seager ran the Society like a well-oiled machine and had strict rules regarding membership. Two character references were required as a membership criterion, as was the capacity to make or obtain the uniform and pay the subscription," Christeen continued.

'But more than that, the Hut was very much a sacred place and shrine, where among the first things to adorn the walls were photos of those killed in action, along with rolls of honour, regimental colours, memorabilia and the like.'

"The first Hut was soon established, where social events and dances were held for the troops in transit through Adelaide. Meals were also served to the soldiers for a nominal fee and the Hut became, in essence, a small recreational hub to keep the troops busy.

"But more than that, the Hut was very much a sacred place and shrine, where among the first things to adorn the walls were photos of those killed in action, along with rolls of honour, regimental colours, memorabilia and the like.

"By 1919, in excess of 150,000 soldiers had eaten more than one million three-course meals, which had to be sourced, prepared and served, equating to an estimated 10,580,000 items to be washed and dried. In addition, the Cheer-Up Society provided comforts, supported the mental health needs of the troops, buried those who had died alone and penniless after their return, erected memorials to the dead and a triumphal arch to welcome home the living.

"The Cheer-Up Society had delivered on its brief and kept its promise – that these men would never be forgotten ... and when they returned, in whatever state, they would all be welcomed home and looked after."



Mary Readman remembers ...



Mary Readman, great grand daughter of Alexandrina Seager who founded the Cheer-Up Society.

Mary Readman has a mountain of memories of her illustrious great grandmother, even though she was three months away from her birth when Alexandrina Seager died at Kingscote on Kangaroo Island in 1950.

And perhaps the most endearing and poignant is a recollection of the poem Alexandrina penned for a volume of poems – Violet Verses – which was sold to raise funds for the Cheer-Up Society, especially as it was dedicated to her youngest son George, who was killed at Gallipoli. It began:

Today we wear the clinging violet
In memory of the brave,
While ever thoughts of fond but
proud regret,
Come surging wave on wave.

“My great grandmother was a modest woman and tireless worker for the welfare of soldiers, as best exemplified by the fondly remembered vow she made when forming the Society. She put it more eloquently and tenderly than I could ever hope to do,” Mary said.

“In her words, she said ‘We cannot go to the front, and there face with them the horrors of the campaign, but we can and will do everything in our power, while they are still near us, to make life brighter for the gallant men who may never more return to South Australia.’

“That’s what drove her and her band of thousands of volunteers, many of whom came from inner city suburbs like Thebarton, Torrensville and Mile End and served at The Hut alongside Adelaide Railway Station, on the site of the current Festival Theatre.

“They visited army camps and hospitals, befriended lonely recruits, arranged luncheons, concerts and spirited farewells. They also sent small gifts and comforts to the men at the front and welcomed home the wounded from Gallipoli.”

In the course of her presentations at the recreated Cheer-Up Hut, Mary will share many of the stories she has heard over the years from her mother (the daughter of one of Alexandrina’s sons, Edward ‘Ted’ Seager who, along with his younger brother George and older brother Hal, fought at Gallipoli) and from other family members.

“A central thread running through just about every story is that Alexandrina was old school. She was all for the Empire and was driven to found the Cheer-Up Society because she felt duty bound to play her part in providing for the welfare of the enlisted men,” Mary added.

“And despite losing her son George, then just 17 years of age, at Gallipoli, she continued to work full-time for the

Society, recruiting volunteers and organising activities, often to the detriment of her health. She paused only to hang a large photograph of George on the walls of the Cheer-Up Hut.”

It is fitting, then, that when the organising committee of the 150th anniversary of South Australia’s colonisation decided in 1986 to honour 150 South Australians deemed to have made a significant contribution to the community with bronze plaques set in the Jubilee 150 Walk along the North Terrace footpath, one of them read: Alexandrina Seager, 1872-1950, Founder, Cheer-Up Society for Armed Services.

‘We cannot go to the front, and there face with them the horrors of the campaign, but we can and will do everything in our power, while they are still near us, to make life brighter for the gallant men who may never more return to South Australia.’

Historical Society collection adds local flavour to commemorations

The West Torrens Historical Society will add a significant local flavour to the city's Gallipoli Commemoration program by providing a broad spread of photographs of personalities, homes and businesses, along with several vignettes of local families and their endeavours during the war.

The collection has been compiled by Society president John Andrewartha, member Helen Prettijohn and many volunteers, and will be incorporated into the City of West Torrens' display in the West Torrens Auditorium.

John has held the post of President for the past 25 years and has dedicated much of his life to serving the West Torrens Historical Society and its endeavours to capture, record, preserve and distribute the history of the district.

He also gives talks to local organisations and schools, to encourage an interest in the local history.

"The selection of some 50 photographs provides a snapshot of what the district looked like during the 1914 to 1918 war years and includes pictures of people and places, sporting groups, shops, churches,

schools, street scenes and the trams, local industries and the like, some of which will be featured on the walls of the auditorium," John said.

"The vignettes of local families should also prove fascinating, among them the story of Mrs James Butterfield, a grandmother whose 13 grandsons all enlisted in World War I." (See accompanying story.)

"Helen has also assembled two large volumes of all who enlisted from West Torrens."

John also painted a picture of the district at the time, describing it as an area characterised by a mix of industrial (in and around Thebarton) and market gardens, orchards and dairies on what is today Adelaide Airport.

"Thebarton and Torrensville was suburbia, with Thebarton being largely industrial and characterised by smelly operations such as boiling down works, where the carcasses of dead animals were boiled to produce tallow and the hides sent to nearby tanneries," John continued.

"But beyond these industries and the houses and cottages of the workers, there was little or no housing as the River Torrens, with no outlet to the sea, would regularly burst its banks and flood the area.

"Even the trams down Henley Beach Road, which were electrified in 1909, were affected by the floods, often leaving people stranded as they ground to a halt. They would then need to be carried off to horse drawn carts that were brought in as a stopgap measure.

"This led the locals to call them 'try agains'... as once the electric trams had been stopped by the flooding, they had to 'try again' and use the horse drawn cart.

"While the flooding remained a major issue until an outlet to the sea was finally constructed in the mid-1930s, there were a few plusses – it meant that the soil was very rich, making it ideal for growing fruit and vegetables, while the river also provided a water supply during the summer."

A wonderful old lady

One of the vignettes provided by the West Torrens Historical Society is that of Mrs Mary Butterfield, who saw her 13 grandsons go off to World War I, four of whom were killed in action.

A long-time resident of Fulham, Mrs Butterfield featured in 'The Advertiser' of 15 May 1925 (using the language of the time, she is referred to as Mrs James Butterfield) on the occasion of her 95th birthday and, to provide a little insight into the woman described as 'a wonderful old lady', we share an edited version of the article.

'The oldest lady colonist of the Reedbeds district is Mrs James Butterfield, who celebrates the ninety-fifth anniversary of her birth today. Born Mary Beavis in Cambridgeshire, she married Mr Amos Noble in the local church, before the couple decided to try their luck in Australia. They arrived here by the May Queen with their little daughter Jane on 31 December 1854. Back then, the means of transport were crude and expensive and it was not uncommon for Mrs Noble to walk to town with her child and, after doing her shopping, walk home again carrying her supplies.'

"We thought nothing of it in those days," remarked the old lady when interviewed, and she referred with scorn to young people who nowadays ride quite short distances in tramcars.

Mr Noble, having come from a farming family, decided to seek employment on the land and settled at Findon, then part of the Reedbeds district. He worked there for some years before moving to where Henley now stands. The surrounding country was nothing but flags and high reeds, so high that a man on horseback could get lost in them, but the land was extremely fertile and the water did not lie in sluggish pools as it does now.

The old lady relates how vegetables grew to perfection and she often took loads of the produce to Port Adelaide and disposed of them to the residents while her husband cultivated the soil. At times she would also assist in this work also, in addition to

attending to her household duties. Later Mr and Mrs Noble moved to Fulham and continued growing vegetables for the market.

When Mr Noble died in 1883, Mrs Noble was left with 11 children. And while some were able to assist in the work, this did not relieve her of her hard labours. Undaunted, she pushed ahead in the face of difficulties and met with much success. Later she married Mr James Butterfield, a son of Mr William Butterfield of Fulham and in so doing was placed in a most peculiar family relationship as she married her eldest daughter's husband's youngest brother, making her both grandmother and aunt to the same children.

When Mr Butterfield died, his widow went to live with her eldest daughter and is now residing with another daughter, Mrs W Rivett. "Hard work does not kill or I should have been dead long ago," she said.

And this seems correct, for even at her advanced age she was more nimble than some much younger folk. Her health is very good and until quite recently, she could read The Advertiser without the aid of glasses. Her other faculties are also remarkably well preserved.

During her long life at Fulham, Mrs Butterfield has been a regular attendant at the Methodist Church. Of the eleven children, seven are still living. No fewer than 13 of the grandsons went on active service in the Great War and four made the supreme sacrifice.'



The five Honour Boards of Thebarton can be seen in the Thebarton Theatre (formerly the Thebarton Assembly Hall).

Honour Boards convey Thebarton's role in The Great War

When Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, Australia was quick to come to the support of the 'Mother Country'. Feelings of patriotism were running high and it didn't take long for the Thebarton Council to pass a motion expressing its loyalty to the British Crown and supporting the war effort.

And so began Thebarton's significant role in what was then known as The Great War or The War to End All Wars, amply conveyed by five large wooden Honour Boards containing the names of locals who enlisted and served, of whom 126 lost their lives.

In all there are more than 1,000 names on the five Honour Boards recognising those who played a role in World War I.

Sadly, as the Thebarton Historical Society President Kevin Kaeding pointed out, the five Thebarton District Roll of Honour Boards 1914-1918 located in the former Thebarton Assembly Hall at 166 South Road, Torrensville are the only physical reminder of local people who served in World War I and of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

"The boards came about when, at the Thebarton Council Town Hall Committee meeting on 6 August 1917, it was decided that the Fight or Work Brigade would

accept a patriotic offer and list the names of residents who served in World War I on a Honour Board at five pence per name – all painted in italics – with a further expense for lettering at the top of the Honour Board," Kevin explained.

"The Fight or Work Brigade was an organisation established by men unable to go to the front for whatever reason but who nonetheless wished to support the war effort. They decided the best way to do so was by using their skills to craft needy items such as bed rests, crutches and walking sticks for the returning wounded, many of whom had sustained permanent physical injury.

"Many others suffered from psychological disturbances that today we might call 'post-traumatic stress disorder' but which was then known as 'shell shock'.

"Of the five Honour Boards, there are two very large spanning from floor to ceiling of the hall and three smaller boards mounted on the walls.

"The unveiling of the first two boards was conducted by none other than Lady Galway, the wife of South Australian Governor Sir Henry Lionel Galway, on 17 March 1918, with the remaining three completed and unveiled at a later date."

Of interest on board one are the names of a female nurse, Lucy Creasy, Dr SR Burston and GD Mitchell, a clerk of Thebarton who was characterised in the ABC series, 'Australia At War'.

Among the many names on board two are those of two female nurses, Miss Frances Laird and Mrs Mary McNally and the names of two Ministers of Religion, Rev. HT Heath and Rev. CJ Perry.

On the fifth board the name of Mr Albert George Inkley is listed, who went on to serve as Mayor of Thebarton from 1939 to 1942.

"As these boards are our only reminder of the local men and women who served their country with honour in World War I, it is imperative that the Thebarton District Roll of Honour Boards 1914-1918 be preserved to ensure that they are never forgotten," Kevin added.

'The Fight or Work Brigade was an organisation established by men unable to go to the front for whatever reason but who nonetheless wished to support the war effort.'



There will be a special Violet Collection at the Hamra Centre Library to commemorate the Centenary of Gallipoli.

Violet Day Cheer-Up Society's most successful enterprise

When Cheer-Up Society founder Alexandrina Seager came up with the idea of Violet Day to commemorate the ANZAC Day landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, little could she have imagined how significant a role it would go on to play in the Society's life – or how endearing and enduring it would be.

First held on 2 July 1915 just weeks after the Gallipoli landings, with live bunches of violets in purple ribbons sold, the annual event went on to become a vital source of fundraising for the Society, to the point where it holds the lofty position as arguably its most successful enterprise.

It survived for another 55 years before

ceasing as a day on the South Australian calendar in 1970.

According to local historical archaeologist and PhD student Christeen Schoepf – who has worked closely with the City of West Torrens to create the replica Cheer-Up Hut display in the West Torrens Auditorium – Alexandrina Seager allegedly chose violets as the object of this day for their centuries-old symbolism representing death, mourning and remembrance ... and saw the day as having a dual purpose.

"Firstly, it was to publicly commemorate and remember those soldiers who lost their lives at Gallipoli. And it was also to be a vehicle through which to fundraise," Christeen explained.

"Indeed, so successful was the inaugural event that it went on to become the Cheer-Up Society's premier fundraiser, reaping approximately £1,000 at the first Violet Day, all of which was used for the construction of the first Cheer-Up Hut officially opened on the site of what is now the Festival Theatre in November 1915.

"At the first Violet Day, the violet flower itself was sold by workers and friends of the Cheer-Up Society who were also assisted by volunteers from other patriotic groups. Violet Day buttons of various prints were introduced in 1916 and a year later, a small compendium of poetry was added to the assemblage of fundraising objects."

Be part of history

While the City of West Torrens will mark the centenary of the landings at Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915 at the RSL's Dawn Service in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens starting at 6am, Adelaide, South Australia and Australia will host a wide range of services and events which give you the chance to be a part of this historic occasion.

More information on what is planned can be found on the internet and we encourage you to visit these sites, plan your day and honour our fallen ANZACs.

Among the websites recommended are:

www.campgallipoli.com.au

www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

www.awm.gov.au/1914-1918

www.anzacsite.gov.au

www.rslsa.org.au