

**SPEECH BY AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
HE GEOFF TOOTH, AT THE NAIROBI ANZAC DAY
CEREMONY, 25 APRIL 2014**

Good morning. Thank you all for attending today and keeping away the rain – each year we have this miracle on Anzac Day when we all get to stand outside on a beautiful Kenyan morning in spite of it being in the middle of the long rains. The ANZACs are looking out for us.

You have in your program an order of service for today. But let me begin by saying how wonderful it is once again to see so many Australians and New Zealanders, and especially children, present. I would also like to acknowledge and warmly welcome the veterans, members of the diplomatic corps, defence attaches and representatives of the Kenyan Government who have joined us today. Can I recognise two in particular: the recently appointed New Zealand Honorary Consul to Kenya, who today represents his newly adopted country for the first time on one of its most important days; and my friend the Ambassador of Turkey.

Your Excellency, no nation could have better guarded our sons or more generously welcomed our pilgrims. We owe an extraordinary debt to your country and your people, something we are even more acutely aware of as we prepare for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli next year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There are thousands of other Anzac day services being held today in Kwale, in Dar es Salam, in Juba, in Australia, in New Zealand, in Turkey and where ever Australians and New Zealanders gather across the world.

Buried in this beautiful place are Pilot Officer Brian Fowler from Auckland, New Zealand and Able Seaman Victor Jarius of Sydney, Australia. Like 21 other ANZAC sons they have been embraced and cared for by Kenya so that their memory can live on, to inspire and to remind us.

For the ANZACs gave Australia and New Zealand a moment in history to inspire us for all time.

The original ANZACs left Australia in 1915 motivated by ideals, by faith, by a chance of adventure, by friendship and by a love of country. And in return, out of the great tragedy and loss that ensued, Australia and New Zealand gained a belief in ourselves and our democracies. Through their sacrifice then and in every conflict we have fought since we have gained a deeper understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the world.

We are not commemorating a military triumph today. Rather we gather to recognise the more humbling, but even more uplifting, triumph of the human spirit and of human valour.

This is also a day of national memory and education. It is a day we learn again of the horror and waste of war. It is a day for looking after your friends, cherishing your home, your neighbourhood and family. It is a day for realising just how lucky you are to live in peace and how precious peace is.

It is a day to remember the inscription found on war memorials around the world

“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today”.

This Anzac spirit is not unique to those who fought at Gallipoli, or fought in World War 1, or any of the many other wars that have occurred since. Each of us has it in us. The spirit of the ANZAC is also the spirit that inspires volunteerism, community service, helping others.

Ladies and gentlemen

Like all battles, all wars, Gallipoli caused unbearable pain for those left behind.

But as one Australian father inscribed on a headstone of his son’s nearly a hundred years ago

“To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die.”

Let us honour the ANZAC's then by fighting injustice, by looking after the most vulnerable in our communities, by helping raise the poor out of poverty, by making a difference where-ever we can. The ANZACs and all those who have died since doing what is right should inspire us to contribute to peace and a better world.

In remembering the ANZACs, we hope for something better – for loved ones, for our nations, for our world.

Let us never forget the ANZAC spirit

Let us never forget them.