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*They fought and died, that we might live in freedom*

### ANZAC day address by Guy Barnett

Bicheno, Tasmania 25 April 2015

- They fought and died, so we might live in freedom.
- Today is an historic day and one of the most special and memorable commemorations in Australia's history.
- On this 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landings at dawn on 25 April 1915 we remember the courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice demonstrated in that 240 day failed military campaign, and in all Australian military campaigns and peace-keeping operations since.
- It was at Gallipoli 14 years after Australia became a nation that our CHARACTER as a nation was forged in the dirt, dugouts, danger, and deaths of 8,709 Australians.
- Like Bicheno, towns all across Australia were affected by the war that began in 1914.
- Farmers, fishermen, labourers, shopkeepers, teachers, doctors – men from all walks of life – enlisted to serve their king and country in lands unknown on the other side of the world.
- Athol Kingston Harvey, an electric linesman from Bicheno, enlisted on 22 September 1914 and served with the 15th Australian Infantry Battalion.
- Private Harvey was wounded twice at Gallipoli-a gun-shot wound to the hand and then shrapnel to the neck.
- After the successful evacuation and withdrawal from Gallipoli on 20 December 2015 and some time in Egypt he served on the western front in France including at Pozieres in August 1916 and then he was wounded and died on 3 September 1916. Private Athol Harvey is buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, in Picardie, France.
- Today has special meaning for my wife Kate and me as we were at Gallipoli for the 90th anniversary commemoration in 2005.
- We walked in the footsteps of a humble but courageous man who fought at Gallipoli, Harry Murray.

- He was born and raised at Evandale, and educated in Launceston.
- Harry Murray was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal at Pope's Hill, Gallipoli for courage demonstrated during a machine gun battle.
- He was wounded sent to the hospital ship and requested to take the next ship back to Australia.
- He did recover enough health and strength to say he would not go home, but back to the trenches to fight with his mates.
- Following Gallipoli he fought on the Western Front in France in the most horrid conditions and it was on 4 and 5 February 1917 that Murray won the Victoria Cross.
- The citation is paraphrased as follows: *"during action which lasted 48 hours at Gueudecourt Murray lead a force of 140 men in an assault on a position known as Stormy Ridge. During the battle he distinguished himself by encouraging his men, setting an example, leading hand-grenade bombing parties, leading bayonet charges, rescuing the wounded and carrying them to safety, crawling out in no-mans-land on reconnaissance, rallying his men and saving the situation by sheer valour. They were forced to withdraw due to the overwhelming enemy firepower, and only 48 of the 140 survived."*
- The Victoria Cross is the highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy to be awarded in war time.
- Harry Murray VC subsequently became the most highly decorated soldier in Australia, and has a statue built in his honour in Evandale.
- In summary, 416 809 Australian men enlisted in World War I.
- Over 60 000 Australians were killed and another 156 000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.
- In Tasmania, 15 484 men enlisted and 2432 were killed.
- Communities, like Bicheno, host ANZAC Day services to bring people together to remember those who served and their families.
- Tasmanians have served and continue to serve the nation with distinction, bravery and honour.
- Tasmania has a rich military history, with 11 000 war veterans and ex-service personnel and 14 Victoria Cross recipients, including most recently the granting of a posthumous Victoria Cross to late Corporal Cameron Baird- a Burnie boy whose memorial was unveiled by Tasmania's governor just a few weeks ago.
- In fact Tasmanians continue to enlist in the Australian Defence Force in greater numbers per capita than other states and territories.

- Current and past service men and women fought and died so that we may live in peace security safety and freedom-that is why we say thank you today; why we remember.
- Many war memorials across Tasmania and the country contain the following quote of Jesus, 'Greater love hath no man, than that a man lay down his life for his friends'.
- We honour this spirit of sacrifice today.
- As we do so let me put this question to you and indeed to myself. Are we worthy of their service and sacrifice? What are we doing and how are we behaving to demonstrate this?
- Lest we forget.