

**FRIENDS OF GALLIPOLI
MARK THE END OF THE WAR IN GALLIPOLI
SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
20 DECEMBER 2014**

Chairman and Consul-General

Every day we receive reports of wars being undertaken in the Middle East or in South Asia or further afield. The human race does not need any help in going to war. It happens too often, in too many different places. That is why commemorating this particular event is so important.

Australia and Turkey, who fought long and hard in Gallipoli, in the Dardanelles campaign, have learnt to make peace. As soldiers in that terrible and costly campaign, costly on both sides of the conflict, soldiers learnt to respect the enemy, for his resolution, for his courage. But then after it was all over, both Turkey and Australia believed that they should make special efforts to overcome whatever hostility may have existed, and to establish a close and enduring relationship. Both countries have worked at that and have learnt to make peace, which is an example to all of us.

So this is a day to celebrate. The day the guns fell silent at the close of the Gallipoli campaign. It is a day to remember the courage, the self-sacrifice, the mateship of the soldiers involved on both sides, and the special place that that particular campaign holds in the minds and hearts of Australians.

227 words