

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF DAWN SERVICE COMMEMORATING ANZAC 100th ANNIVERSARY
LANDING AT GALLIPOLI
IPSWICH, APRIL 25, 2015.
Charles W Lepani

High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Australia

Chairman Brad Strong and your committee, Mayor of Ipswich, Paul Pisasale, Distinguished Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, we join with you on this solemn occasion to honour and pay tribute to those ANZACS who bravely answered the call to arms at the outbreak of hostilities of World War I in 1914, in particular on the brutal shores of Gallipoli in 1915.

We pay particular homage to the 86 men and boys of Bundamba District who fought in that conflict. In Papua New Guinea we too reflect upon the significance of ANZAC Day. At Dawn Services around the country this morning, including at Bomana War Cemetery and Isurava on the iconic Kokoda Track, we remember those who lost their lives defending our land as well yours.

The age old message, in Rudyard Kipling's recessional is profound and we continue to honour those who have paid the supreme sacrifice, that those who are custodians of our power in times of war and peace do not take their responsibilities lightly in sending young men and women in harm's way. Those with "an humble and contrite heart" whose sacrifice still stand and shine eternally, lest we forget, that they paid the supreme sacrifice so that there will be wars no more, so that freedom and peace will reign. To the evil forces who hide behind religion to justify their brutality and inhumanity, the humble and contrite heart whose sacrifice stands and shines eternally, urges vigilance.

Lest we forget.