

**Gallipoli Scholarship Fund Address – MAJGEN W.B Stothart
Merrylands RSL Club – 28 April 2022**

- Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Today I am representing General Angus Campbell, Chief of the Defence Force, who cannot be with us today as he is travelling overseas. He has asked me to pass on his apologies. It is my pleasure to represent him today at this wonderful ceremony, particularly so closely following ANZAC Day when we remember our veterans and their sacrifice.

- Before I begin my short address I would like to acknowledge our international guests here today;
 - The New Zealand Consul – Mr William Dobbie; and
 - The Turkish Vice Consul – Mr Yavuz Gokcayir

- It is wonderful to have representatives of the Governments of NZ and Turkey at this ceremony to award the Gallipoli Scholarships.

- I feel that today is a celebration of our community. A community that is centred on service to the nation through our Defence Force and pursuit of education. A community that acknowledges the service of one generation and gives support to those generations that follow. A community that understands the sacrifice that others have made so that we can live in freedom. A community that values education as a key means to preserve our way of life and make Australia and the world a better place. A community that not only helps its own, but reaches out to help other communities.

- To the Gallipoli Scholars, your family histories are so very impressive. Service dating back in some cases to the Boer War, and almost every conflict and peacekeeping mission that Australia has been involved in since. Some have family service through multiple generations – and some through multiple deployments. Each of those histories represents the decision to commit to service, to leave home, to endure hardship and risk danger, to form close bonds, to suffer loss and to share great joy. All will have been changed by their service and some will have been harmed in some way. Their service was for you, and all of us.
- Your personal journey's, albeit short compared to some of us here today, are already impressive. Your significant achievements indicate hard work, dedication and persistence. Academic awards, participation in youth delegations overseas, a desire to assist those in our communities with special needs and disabilities, to pay back the kindness showed to you, to support indigenous communities and become involved in humanitarian issues, I could go on. Your aspirations for the future and the change you want to make to our communities and others is so very impressive. I draw great confidence for the future learning about you, your achievements and your goals.
- Between the lines of your achievements, in the last three years has seen significant hardship for our communities. Fires, pandemic and floods. Your later secondary education years and early tertiary study will have been severely impacted by restrictions when you were just able to enjoy your independence. These have been hard years. But our communities have known hard years before and we have pulled together and pulled

through and we will again. We always have and we will always will. Your family histories prove this, and you are demonstrating this again.

- The ADF is proud to be associated with the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund. This is the first year of the ADF's commitment to provide three Bursaries each year. I note that a number of former Gallipoli Scholars are now serving in the ADF, as evidenced by Kevin who is with us today.
- As our Governor-General and Mrs Hurley reminded us in their video, the GSF's motto of *Their Service ... Your Future*, is what drives the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund. This should never be forgotten and this has attracted the ADF to this worthy cause.
- I would like to thank the Merrylands RSL for hosting the awards, and acknowledge their continuing and steadfast support since the GSF's foundation in 1996. I also thank the other RSLs, the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Hall Rotary Club, Ex-Service Organisations, and DVA for their continuing support.
- I would also like to thank the supporters of the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund, the Macintosh Foundation, the Vonwiller Foundation and the Ataturk Foundation. As well as acknowledge the contributions from a growing group of corporate sponsors – Lockheed Martin Australia, Ernst and Young and Calleo Indigenous. Thank you for your support.

- Most importantly, I must congratulate this year's Gallipoli Scholars, noting that:
 - 2022 is a record year with 30 being awarded.
 - So pleasing to see that the GSF is extending its support to provide opportunities for Gallipoli Scholars to undertake a 2nd and 3rd year of tertiary study.
 - Also significant that eight Scholars this year are First Nation people.
 - Lastly, I must acknowledge that community achievements like this require vision, dedication and plain old hard work. I would like to save my final thank you for the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund Management Committee Members who have made this day possible and without whose work we would not be able to provide the support that these scholarships represent. Quite simply, it is people like you who allow our communities to be the best that they can be.
 - Thank you.