



# - ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE -



(N.B. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.)



This years ANZAC Day dawn service was held at Cristo Rei, April, 25th 2018. Official partipants were, His Excellency, The President of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Dr Francisco Guterres "Lu-Olo", Her Excellency Ms Vicki Poole, New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Peter Roberts, Australian Ambassador, officiating Padre, Tenente Rui Gomes, Padre FALINTIL, Chaplain and master of ceremonies Commander Geoff Turner, RAN. The Catafalque Party and bugler were flown in for the ceremony from the Australian Federal Guard and great support came from the Dili International Choir.

The occasion has evolved over many years here in Timor Leste and is no longer just attended by Australians and New Zealanders but also, Turkish, Timorese with other visitors including Portuguese and USA Armed Forces members and relatives of the 2/2 Australian armed forces who served in Timor Leste during WW2. After the service breakfast was provided. Catering by Beachside Hotel and after at Mobys Restaurant and Bar for 'two up' and 'crown and anchor' in the ANZAC tradition.



**The Beginning.** In 1915, Australian & New Zealand soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula, according to a plan by Winston Churchill to open the way to the Black Sea for the Allied navies. Though the Gallipoli campaign failed to achieve its military objectives, the actions of the Australian and New Zealander troops during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as an "Anzac legend" which then became an important part of the national identity in both countries.

**The Ode** The 'Ode of Remembrance' has been adopted to best preserve the memory on the day of fallen comrades and is taken from Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen',  
"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them."

**Enemies Bonding.** A unique relationship and mutual respect evolved between the 'enemies' and remains to this day. The following quote from Ataturk is evidence of that. "You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace, after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well." Ataturk, 1934.



Above is Vietnam Vet. Leo Francis Lothian - Black better known as 'Blacky'. He came all the way from Alice Springs to attend this dawn service on Bruce Sinclair's invitation. He tells us he did four tours in Vietnam and was shot four times. Is that quitting while you are ahead or behind?

