



# 100 YEARS OF ANZAC



## Anzac Day Commemorated by Veteran

### Wally Turner

By Antonia Carter

On April 25 2015 many New Zealanders will observe the centenary of Anzac Day. This event commemorates the landings of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, during World War I.

Local man and World War II veteran Walter 'Wally' Turner has dutifully attended the Morrinsville Anzac service over the years, as a wreath layer for the Red Cross. In October he will attend another centenary, his 100th birthday.

Born in 1915 in Essex, England, Turner has a few hazy memories of the First World War. "We were in London with the German bombers...I recall a zeppelin being shot down. Of course as young children you don't fully understand, however we knew something was up from the excitement of the grownups." From October 1939 Turner worked for the Royal Air Force, as a motor-

mechanic and ground engineer. He served through the Battle of Britain, the first major war campaign to be fought entirely by air force. "I worked my way right to the top," said Turner.

In 1942 he was moved to the Egypt desert airforce, repairing damaged aircraft. "There were so many in the air at a time. I had 23 blokes working for me...there was still quite a bit of excitement!"

Next Turner was off to Brindisi, Italy. Four-engine bombers and spitfires were among the aircraft he worked on, for squadrons around the Italian coast.

One prominent memory of Turner's time at Brindisi was when he was 'adopted' by a stray dog. "He was of pointer breed, followed me everywhere. In the trucks, around town." One day Turner was visiting an area of land which had been targeted by German bombing. "It was a wasteland. Nothing was there anymore, for miles."

His dog suddenly ran off, disappearing from sight. He returned leading a German soldier, who came out with his hands held up in surrender. "He didn't speak a word of English and I didn't speak any German. But we both spoke

Italian! And that was the only time during the war that I caught a German", laughs Turner.

At the closing of the war Turner decided to move from England. "I had met people from all the different nations...and you know the nicest I worked with were New Zealanders. The country was quite close to England as well. So I sold up and

moved here."

Turner lived in Mount Albert and then Mangere, until he moved to Morrinsville in 2005. With three children, eight grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren, Turner says he is lucky to be surrounded by family.

A long-serving member of the Red Cross, he hopes to once again lay the wreath at Morrinsville's Anzac ceremony on Saturday.



## Morrinsville Museum

### World War One Exhibition

By Nicole Davenport

The Morrinsville Museum opened their new World War One exhibition to the public on Sunday and the Museum will open on ANZAC Day from 1 - 4pm.

The exhibition focuses on the involvements of Morrinsville Soldiers and the display will continue until the end of the centenary in November 2018.

"We will be making changes to the exhibition throughout this time to showcase different stories and artefacts," says Museum Manager, Barbara Dalziel.

An individual photo and personal story will be on display for each fallen soldier on the anniversary of their death.

The exhibition currently displays the photos and stories of the four

men who died on Anzac Day; Private Wilfred Louis Harrison, Private Charles William May, Private James Arthur Morrison, and Sergeant Alfred John Douglas Howie.

The exhibition features footage of the troops, artefacts that were brought back from the war and details on the numerous battles where Morrinsville soldiers were sent.

The Morrinsville Museum offers history for the community on a personal level.

"It's nice when people can come into the museum and find a picture of a relative that they weren't expecting to find," says Barbara.

At the official opening of the exhibition; were the Hirst and the Gaddes families who often show great support towards the museum and are grateful to see their grandfathers feature in the museum.

Unveiling the new exhibition was Morrinsville Historical Society President David Sing, and RSA President Trevor Close.



(From Left) Museum President David Sing, Harry Lord, Oscar Gaddes, Jack Gaddes, Jourden Picknell-Worsnop and Mayor Jan Barnes.



(From Left) Private Wilfred Louis Harrison, Private Charles William May, Private James Arthur Morrison, and Sergeant Alfred John Douglas Howie.