

## **Premier and embassy representatives to attend opening on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, representatives from four embassies and senior military officers will be in Maryborough on July 21<sup>st</sup> for the opening of Gallipoli to Armistice, a spectacular tribute to the original ANZACs.

The unique complex tracing the journey of the ANZACs through the Great War will become a Queensland landmark and a memorial of national significance.

Queen's Park Military Trail Project Committee president Nancy Bates said she was delighted Ms Palaszczuk would be at the opening as the Queensland Government had contributed a million dollars to the project.

"We sought the funding through the Queensland Anzac Centenary Commemoration fund to allow us to complete some elements of the structure and develop the interpretive works that will make it a special experience for visitors.

"We are grateful to our passionate advocate, Member for Maryborough Bruce Saunders, who strongly backed our vision to have an outstanding memorial built in regional Queensland."

Soaring to a height of 8m to represent the Sphinx, the striking Gallipoli section is designed to represent the landscape around Anzac Cove. The memorial surrounds the statue of Duncan Chapman, unveiled in 2015 to portray the Maryborough man who was the first allied soldier to step ashore at Gallipoli on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

The opening ceremony will have a heavy military presence including Commander David Salisbury from the British High Commission and Commodore Ian Mower from the New Zealand High Commission. Officers of 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion 9RQR will attend. The band of the Royal Australian Army 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment will take a ceremonial role.

Funding has also come from a \$900,000 grant from the Australian Government and a \$900,000 grant from the Fraser Coast Regional Council. The FCRC has also provided project management services.

Gallipoli to Armistice has been built by the Queen's Park Military Trail Project Committee, a community committee operating under the umbrella of the Maryborough RSL Sub-branch. An estimated \$2 million has been contributed through in-kind donations of materials and professional services.

Ms Bates said Anzac to Gallipoli will be an informative, inspiring and emotive experience for visitors.

"This memorial has been driven by the community of Maryborough. Hundreds of people in the city have contributed to giving Australia a stunning memorial where the words of the original ANZACs will bring us closer to understanding their journey."

**For more information contact Nancy Bates, President, QMTPC, 0459 022 836**