

The Pioneer



Patron

*His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC
DSC (Ret'd), the Governor of NSW*



AUSTRALASIAN

Pioneers' Club

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The Pioneer

It is two years since the last issue of *The Pioneer*, a hiatus caused by focussing the Club's resources of time and man hours on relocation from the Union, University & Schools Club to the Royal Automobile Club of Australia. The formal opening of the new Pioneers' Room in November last by his Excellency, the Governor, marked an end of the first stage and a report on that triumphant occasion is contained in this issue. More remains to be done, with artefacts and paintings (some recently returned from overdue specialist conservation treatment) yet to be displayed in our new home.

Despite the disruption, a traditional timetable of functions has been maintained and also within this issue is the text of one of them: last year's Anzac Day address by Robert O'Neill. A backlog of similar event reports awaits publication in coming issues. We are two years late in marking the bicentenary of the foundation in 1817 of the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) but John Harris's account of his forebears' association with Australia's first bank is in no way devalued by delay.

John Lanser

The Governor's Speech from the Opening of the Pioneers' Room

On 8th November, the Club was honoured to host our Patron, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), the Governor of NSW and Mrs Hurley, who presided over the opening of the Pioneers' Room. Over 150 members and guests attended, from our ranks as well as the RACA and Women's Pioneer Society. Below is the text of the speech given by the Governor to commemorate the occasion.



*The Governor and Mrs Hurley being greeted upon their arrival at the RACA.
Jenny Pratt, Antony Carr, Governor Hurley, Mrs Hurley & Grahame Pratt*

Thank you for your words of welcome. I, too, pay my respects to Gadigal Elders, past and present and to all Aboriginal people of our nation, the world's longest surviving continuous culture.

I am pleased to be Patron of the Australasian Pioneers' Club, an organisation with a long and significant history. Since its establishment in New South Wales in 1910, this organisation has served to promote the continuing association of the early pioneer families and the study of Australian history.

The Club has also, not surprisingly, had a close relationship with Governors of New South Wales since that time.

Douglas Hope Johnston, the founder of the Australasian Pioneers' Club, was the great grandson of Colonel George Johnston of Annandale, who was the first officer alongside Governor Phillip to land from the First Fleet at Port Jackson 230 years ago, just a few metres from where we are standing today.



Governor Hurley & President Grahame Pratt looking at the Endeavour Plans

We are the inheritors of that settlement, a settlement that rapidly became, in the words of John Dunmore Lang, the Colony's first Scottish Presbyterian Minister, a 'transcendentally important social experiment⁽¹⁾'. It was this 'experiment' that led to the creation of a new and successful nation, the Commonwealth of Australia.

Our history, framed as it no doubt is by the political, cultural and social imperatives of the time, is a story of migration, both forced and free. It is also a

story that has its fair share of tragedies and sorrows, in particular for the First Peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Islander People, who had arrived more than 60,000 years ago.

Once here, our First Fleet voyagers found themselves in a land with strange seasons, and strange plants and animals they had never encountered before.

What crops could be grown? What animals would be suitable? What materials were available for construction purposes? Could the Colony support a growing population? These were questions that all had to be thought through and answered.

Our pioneers came from all sections of society. My ancestor, Murto Hurley, a convict from County Cork, who, on release, settled in Cooma, was one of them. By dint of enterprise and hard work, they gave us much for which we can be grateful.

I congratulate the Australasian Pioneers' Club on promoting the discussion of our history and fostering mutual friendship between the descendants of our pioneering ancestors.

In addition to the Australasian Pioneers' Club, I have given my support to history organisations like the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Parramatta & District Historical Society, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Linda is Patron of your sister club, The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia, which is also located here at the Royal Automobile Club. We are honoured to have the Club's president, Lorraine Carter, here tonight.

The great joy all these organisations take in history is that it is so multi-layered, so reflective of the human condition in all its strengths and its frailties.

History gives us, as a community, unique opportunities to celebrate and look back at the good in our past, to reflect on past mistakes and to plan for the future with the benefit of this knowledge.

As the President has remarked, the Club has already had six homes over 'the term of (its) natural life', to borrow a phrase from a well-known Australian writer.

It was at the Club's first Clubhouse on 10 April 1911 that Lord Chelmsford, the 22nd Governor of New South Wales, donated a portrait of Governor Phillip.

It was at the Union, University & Schools Club that Linda and I attended our first Pioneers' Welcome Dinner and we were able to inspect some of the paintings and historical artefacts that we saw once again this evening in the new Pioneers' Room.

I'm told that members of the Pioneers' Club wanted their Club to remain an independent entity and longed to have a space to call their own, where their art and archival material could be properly displayed and where they could meet for club fellowship.

All these wishes have now been splendidly met by the Royal Automobile Club of Australia.



Mrs Jenny Pratt, Mr Grahame Pratt (President, APC), Mrs Lorraine Carter (President, WPS), Governor Hurley, Mrs Linda Hurley, Mr Peter Carter, Mr Michael Callanan (President, RACA) & Mrs Therese Callanan

For that we owe thanks to President, Michael Callanan, and his fellow board members, some of whom are here tonight.

I would like to congratulate Pioneers' President, Grahame Pratt and members of the Refurbishment Subcommittee responsible for making the new Pioneers' Room one of the finest club rooms in Australia.

I'd also like to congratulate David Pratt, the subcommittee chairman and members Chris White, John Lanser and Antony Carr.

Finally, when you inspect the room, I think you will agree that Kim Taylor, the Interior Designer for the project, who is also here tonight, has done a wonderful job.

I have great pleasure in now declaring the Pioneers' Room open.



*His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC, the Governor of NSW
unveiling the plaque*

*(1) JD Lang – Historical and Statistical Account of the Colony of New South Wales,
page 231*

Photographs courtesy of David Miller from artsphotosoz@bigpond.com

The Kaiser and his Grand Strategy In The Middle East

Robert O'Neill AO FASSA

This is the text of the address delivered to the Club's annual Anzac Lunch, held in conjunction with the Royal Automobile Club of Australia, on 24 April 2018.

This is a story about the contribution that Australian soldiers made in the First World War, but which I am setting in a context of much greater significance than the usual one of the ANZAC toehold on the Gallipoli Peninsula, secured 103 years ago tomorrow.

There are two central characters in the drama, Winston Churchill and Kaiser Wilhelm II.



Kaiser Wilhelm II – a man of special personality, problems, aims and policies in 1914: above all he wanted a navy and an empire. He was Queen Victoria's grandson: he knew Britain well in the 19th century, when it was at its height as a great imperial power. He made frequent visits to Britain and his grandmother's

court. He was intrigued by, and jealous of the British Empire, its wealth and the naval power that held it all securely together. He felt overshadowed by the record of his grandfather, Kaiser Wilhelm I, who, working with Chancellor Bismarck and Prussia's great military leader, Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke, created the new, unified great power of central Europe, the German Empire (Deutsches Reich).

From his seat in Berlin, the Kaiser had a clear view to the Jewel in Victoria's imperial crown, India, via the Middle East. Prussia had come to have a good working relationship with the Ottoman Empire since 1835 – the earlier years of Helmuth von Moltke's professional military life were spent as an adviser to the Ottoman Army. When Wilhelm II's grandfather unified the German states in 1871, the new Empire had much more wealth and power, and more to offer other states and businesses as a working partner than the old Prussia. German businessmen, bankers, scholars and soldiers travelled to Turkey, funded and built railways, raised the prestige of the Islamic world in Germany, and helped to modernise the Ottoman Army. As these activities all fitted with the Kaiser's personal interests, he had regular briefings when his subjects came home on short visits, and he paid particular attention to the views of Baron Max von Oppenheim, a banker, businessman and ultimately scholar, who lived and travelled in the Middle East from 1883 to 1909. Oppenheim urged the Kaiser to take advantage of the religious strength of Islam by supporting the activities of Jihadists in the Ottoman Empire from North Africa to Afghanistan and eventually into India itself, utilising the 80 million Moslems who lived in India to cause chaos for the British. He became well known in the Arab world, and was given the nick-name Abu Jihad, or Father of Holy War.

Oppenheim's advice received support from the German Army, particularly from one of its most prolific writers, General Colmar von der Goltz. He trained the young officers of the Ottoman Army from 1883 to 1895, many of whom became members of the Young Turks' rebellion in 1908, who led the Turkish Army through the First World War. One of Goltz's insights, derived from his experience in the Franco-Prussian War, was that a new form of warfare, People's War, had been developed by the changing political natures and technological capabilities of modern societies. He warned his Turkish students to develop capabilities and plans accordingly.

Warfare would not in future be limited to the formal clashes of brilliantly uniformed armies on the open battlefield. Goltz and General David Petraeus would be in substantial agreement on this and many other points 120 years later!

The Kaiser took all this thinking about Jihad very seriously, and Oppenheim was given greater scope to gather useful intelligence, make plans and develop contacts through the Arab world. Oppenheim attracted the attention of British and French intelligence operators in the Ottoman Empire, and the German plan for Jihad was known about and studied closely by the British and French Foreign Ministries. The Americans were watching too from their Embassy in Constantinople, and they noted the technologically backward state of the Ottoman Empire. The Embassy staff recorded that the total number of motor vehicles registered in the Ottoman Empire was only 500, of which half were in Constantinople. There were few motor roads and no petrol stations and repair facilities across the country. Movement of armies across the country would have to occur at walking pace. There was a partially completed railway from Constantinople to Aleppo, the first part of the much acclaimed Berlin to Baghdad railway, which however did not see its first train run the full distance from Baghdad to Istanbul until 1940!

The initiation of this railway was one of the results of a successful state visit the Kaiser paid to the Ottoman empire in 1898. The Germans got there first, with the necessary money and technological skills, so the Turks kept watching Germany respectfully and hopefully. There were many British supporters among influential Turks, but they were fewer than those who preferred to ally with Germany. The British were going to have to look to their laurels if they were not to be eclipsed in Constantinople.

Enter, the man for the hour, Winston Churchill!

Relations between the Ottoman and British Empires were not close. They were not openly hostile in the late 19th century, but with the construction of the Suez Canal, its importance to the British Empire, and the British occupation of Egypt from 1882, there were obvious points of friction. The security of the Canal put both sides on the alert, and General von der Goltz, back in Germany in 1899, went so far as to urge the Ottoman Army to develop plans and special military

capabilities for attacking the Canal.



Kaiser Wilhelm II meeting Sultan Mehmet V in Constantinople on 15 October 1917

But there were wider issues for both sides to think about in developing their relationship in the decades before the First World War. Tensions between Britain and Germany were growing. The Germans were determined to reduce the edge of naval superiority that Britain enjoyed, but Britain increased its rate of construction of Dreadnoughts under First Lord of the Admiralty Reginald McKenna. He was very concerned when Royal Naval reports indicated that the Ottoman Navy was in a parlous condition, and he was able to strengthen British influence in Constantinople by offering the Ottomans a resident naval mission to help modernise their fleet, improve its fire power, build up-to-date support facilities for modern warships at Constantinople, and begin to build modern defences for the Dardanelles themselves. The British mission commenced work in 1909.

The Ottomans and the Greeks had been at war with each other in 1897. From a British perspective, the outcome, an Ottoman victory, was both surprising and welcome. King Constantine of Greece, when he was Crown Prince in 1889, had married the Kaiser's sister, Princess Sophia of Prussia. For the next 25 years, Greece was viewed by the British as a possible danger in the Eastern

Mediterranean in the event of a major conflict with Germany. The presence of Queen Sophia in Athens offered another reason for the British to want to modernise the Ottoman Navy.

In 1908, following the revolt by the Young Turks, the British Government came to take a more positive view of the new Turkey in general, hence the offer of the naval mission. The Young Turks, led by Colonel Enver, were careful not to offend Britain, but in their inner thinking they were much more impressed by Germany's potential as a major ally.

Winston Churchill had risen swiftly to prominence in British politics, succeeding McKenna as First Lord of the Admiralty in early 1911. He had already established personal contact with Enver, who was to become the Minister for War in the reformed Turkish Government. They had met in Germany when both were attending the Kaiser's annual field exercises for the German Army in 1909. Their friendship developed and Churchill paid an official visit, in the Admiralty yacht, to Turkey during the summer holidays of 1911. The work of the British naval mission proceeded fruitfully, and as a result the Ottomans acquired modern minefields for the waters of the Dardanelles, torpedo tubes installed just above the water line, new fortifications and modern coastal artillery. The Germans also saw an opportunity to acquire leverage in Constantinople, and they added to the minefield and artillery defences of the Dardanelles and began to provide military aircraft and teach the Turks how to fly them. In 1913 the Germans made another move by offering the Turks a resident military mission, commanded by General Otto Liman von Sanders. This led to a major diplomatic *contretemps* across Europe.



WWI cartoon propaganda postcard for Kaiser Wilhelm II

Churchill raised the ante further in 1911 by accepting an order from the Ottomans for two new Dreadnought battleships, to be built by Vickers and Armstrong by July 1914. The Royal Navy itself was increasing in power, because Churchill had decided to change the fuel of the major warships from coal to oil, increasing the range of ships at sea, their speed, the ease with which they could be re-fuelled and the general convenience of having a cleaner, liquid fuel. This was a very brave move for a major naval power to undertake, but thanks to the guiding hand of Admiral Jacky Fisher, former First Sea Lord, and the political courage and adroitness of Churchill himself, it was a successful and very timely change.

Because the main source of oil for the Royal Navy was the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at Abadan in Persia, the strategic importance of the Middle East rose yet further. But from a British perspective, the balance of power there was very delicate, as the Germans increased their influence with the Young Turks while the British were becoming dependent on secure access to oil, which came from wells and a refinery on the Ottoman doorstep. Construction of the Berlin-Baghdad railway was already under way. Britain therefore had to pay special attention to the Ottoman Empire for three reasons: security of the Suez Canal, the containment of Ottoman and German attempts to spread Jihad through the Middle East, and security of access to the Royal Navy's precious fuel oil, provided by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

In addition to the Kaiser, Churchill and the young Turks, there was a fourth group of leaders who were very sharply focused on events in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans: the Russians. For centuries, since the fall of Byzantium to the Moslems under Mehmet II in 1453, Russia and the Ottoman Empire had been at daggers drawn. Proximity, religious differences and Constantinople's domination of the Dardanelles kept Russia and the Ottoman empire at war for over four hundred years. Since 1711 there had been seven Russo-Turkish wars, and Russia had won them all. The main battlefields had been in the Caucasus, the Balkans and the Black Sea. Why then had Britain not concluded a firm alliance with Russia a long time ago? The answer lies in the tussle for influence in Central Asia which took place between Russia and Britain in the nineteenth century, known as the Great Game.



Political cartoon depicting the Afghan Emir Sher Ali with his "friends" the Russian Bear and the British Lion (1878)

Eventually reason held sway and Britain moved closer to Russia strategically by signing the Anglo-Russian Convention in 1907. The Great Game was now over, but Russia was in a much weakened situation, suffering humiliating defeat in the Russo-Japanese War and massive political change following the revolution of 1905. These developments encouraged the Young Turks to become aggressive towards Russia, with the objective of regaining lost territory in the Caucasus and the Balkans. In the two Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913, the Ottomans fared badly, although less so in 1913 than in 1912. But the Germans, especially the Army, became increasingly sceptical about the worth of having Turkey as an ally. They feared Turkey would become a major burden, unable to handle Russia.

As Russian agriculture modernised, their ability to export produce increased, and given the internal political and social problems of Russia, free access to the seas of the world became increasingly important both for their economy and their national stability. Hence the Russians wanted to take Constantinople, open the Dardanelles and dominate the Black Sea. Enver, the Young Turk leader, could see which way the Russian High Command was inclining, so he was determined to launch a powerful attack into the Caucasus in late 1914.

Once the First World War had broken out in August 1914, and the Germans had safely lodged their two warships, the battleship *Goeben* and the battlecruiser *Breslau*, in Constantinople after their pursuit by the British from North Africa, it was suddenly time for the British to stop their naval assistance to the Ottomans and go to war against them. Churchill cancelled the delivery of the two battleships to the Turks on 1 August, causing much anger in the Ottoman domain, where these two ships had been financed by public subscription. Admiral Arthur Limpus, who had been in charge of the British naval mission in Constantinople for the past two years, knew where all the new defences of the Dardanelles were located, what their capabilities were, and how best they might be overcome. He, surprisingly, was then re-posted to Malta. He surely should have been brought back to the Admiralty in London, and put in charge of planning for attacking the defences at the Dardanelles. But by then Churchill was pressing for an amphibious attack to take control of the Narrows, march on Constantinople, cause riot and commotion there and topple the Turkish government. As if the Young Turks were so feeble!

The chief obstacle in Churchill's way was a shortage of troops to send, given the demands of the Western Front in France. However in late November 1914 he was informed of the arrival of the two ANZAC divisions in Egypt and he immediately asked Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, to retain them in the Canal Zone rather than send them on to France, so that he would have a significant force to put ashore on the Gallipoli Peninsula, once he had convinced his fellow ministers to invade Turkey. The situation appeared to improve when Kitchener also made available the British 29th Division, and the French promised a force of Corps size (79,000). Churchill scraped up sailors to man the Royal Naval Division, making up a force of six divisions. The Turks were able to man their defences with a force of similar size, the Fifth Army. Given the strength of their defences and the difficulties their attackers faced in getting ashore, then digging their own defences and withstanding counter-attacks, the Turks were in a very strong position when the landings were made on 25 April. They could, conceivably, have hurled their attackers back into the sea, but they were not quite ready, despite all the urging of their German army commanders and advisers. The Turks were able to sink three allied battleships when they tried to pass the straits in March, 1915.

As we know, the landing forces fought hard and well, and, three months after going ashore, they were still in place – not far inland, but in a strong enough position to be able to keep fighting, launching their major offensive in August 1915, and then continuing to hold on until the approach of winter and the spreading of sickness made the campaign too expensive for the allies to sustain, especially after the costs of a year's fighting in France.

In toto nearly one million men fought in the Gallipoli campaign. The largest contingent was that of the Turks – some 500,000 men. According to official Turkish figures, 57,000 were killed and 110,000 wounded or captured. These figures are probably a severe understatement of the actual Turkish losses. Of the allied half million, over 250,000 became casualties, including some 47,000 dead. Thus, of the million men who fought at the Dardanelles, about one in seven died and a further one in three were casualties.

This brings me back to the theme of this lecture – the Kaiser and his hopes for a successful Jihad against the British and French, from North Africa to Calcutta. He had expert advice to follow that strategy, he had agents in place to begin to give it effect, and he had begun to concert plans for action with the young Turk leadership. Above all he could see the way clear to realizing one of his major objectives: to displace Britain as a major world power and thereby achieve a historic reputation which surpassed that of his grandfather, Wilhelm I. Wilhelm II was ready to run risks and pay millions of gold Turkish pounds to get the Ottomans to mobilize the whole Islamic world against his enemies. He pledged the money and the Turks got to work. They brought together twenty-nine of their leading legal scholars to draft the necessary *fatwas* for the authorization of Jihad. These were presented to the leading political, military and religious authorities for approval on 11 November 1914. Three days later the call for holy war was read out in public before a large crowd in front of the Mosque of Mehmet the Conqueror in the Sultan's name. The call was approved and followed by a decree from Sultan Mehmet V, in his authority as Caliph, that Jihad should be proclaimed and the call published throughout the Muslim world.



Wilhelm II of Germany | Mehmet V of Ottoman Empire | Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary

The call went out, but the response was less than the Turkish leaders had hoped for, particularly beyond the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire. There were many localized but small-scale responses, such as that on the railway line near Broken Hill, New South Wales, on New Year's Eve, 1914. Two "Turks" (actually Afghans) opened fire on a trainload of picnickers, killing three and wounding several others. The shooters were, in turn, shot and killed by police, and riots and the burning of the German Club in Broken Hill followed.

There were major episodes of resistance to British authority in Egypt, but it is fair to say that Jihad did not take hold to the extent its initiators had hoped for. Britain did not lose its footing in the Middle East or India. One problem for the Kaiser was the internal divisions within the Islamic world which made one group of Moslems wonder if other groups were worth risking their lives for. Another was the fact that they were being asked to target the people of some major Christian nations and not others, such as Germany. A third limiting factor was the humiliation inflicted on the Turks by the Russians in the Battle of Sarikarmish in late December 1914. This battle, fought out in the snow and ice

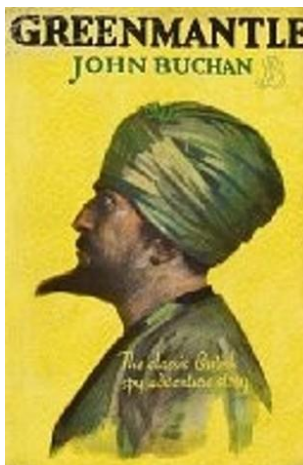
covering the countryside, was much more the métier of the Russians than of the poorly equipped, supplied and fed Turks. In essence, the Third Turkish Army was destroyed. Of the nearly 100,000 men Turks sent into action, only 18,000 returned and most of them were in very poor condition. This was not an outcome to inspire the confidence of the Ottomans' Moslem allies! They did not rally to the cause in large numbers.

During 1915 the Turks were heavily occupied by the Dardanelles campaign and coping with the tremendous losses that they suffered. They also had to cope with the consequences of an unsuccessful attack on the Suez Canal. They had then hoped, after the British withdrawal from Gallipoli, to be able to move their Fifth Army across to the east in order to attack the Russians and re-take territory which had been lost earlier, but the Fifth Army was in too poor a shape to be able to march across Anatolia in winter and then defeat the Russians. They lost the major battles of Erzerum and Erzincan, and the victorious Russians were then able to turn north and take the Black Sea port of Trebizond. As a result of their Gallipoli losses, the Turks had to give up their hopes for an advance into the Caucasus and to repel the British and Indian troops landed at the head of the Persian Gulf in early 1916, before proceeding to capture the British oilfields in north-western Persia.

The Turks also had to loosen their grip on Yemen and the Hijaz as the Arabs began their powerful revolt, guided by T.E. Lawrence with British financial support. By the end of 1917, the Ottomans were on the defensive all round and Britain was increasing its effectiveness in prosecuting the war. All this flowed from the heavy costs of the Dardanelles campaign. Had that been less costly for the Turks, the results of 1916 and 1917 could have been very different. Britain was still vulnerable in the Middle East – its oil supplies and the Suez Canal were of the greatest importance, and a major Ottoman victory could have raised enthusiasm and public support across the Middle East for the weakening Jihad.

British concern at the serious nature of the Islamic threat to their position in the Middle East and India was revealed in a remarkable book published in 1916. Many of you will know it: *Greenmantle*, by John Buchan. The author was not just a novelist or journalist. When he wrote *Greenmantle* in 1915, Buchan was a second lieutenant in the Army Intelligence Corps, working in the British government's War Propaganda Bureau in London. The Bureau had been set up

when the British discovered that the Germans had one, which they were using effectively to make their case internationally. The plot of *Greenmantle* is about German plans to foment Jihad across the Middle East, North Africa and India. Greenmantle is the code name of the Islamic prophet who is to lead the campaign, supported by the German Government in the person of Colonel von Stumm (von Stupid in English) and a beautiful German woman who lived in Constantinople, Hilda von Einem. The British heroes arrive in Constantinople just as the Gallipoli campaign is winding down, and Buchan gives us a very convincing picture of Enver trying, vainly, to transfer powerful forces quickly from the Dardanelles to the eastern Anatolian city of Erzerum. The result is a major Russian victory, and the Ottoman Empire is thrown onto a downwards slide, not very differently to what actually happened in early 1916. The book was published in late 1916 and proved extremely popular, making the Germans and their Turkish allies look both incompetent and inhumane, and strengthening the image of the British as the true, effective natural partners and leaders of the Moslem world. It is also interesting that *Greenmantle* was well read by soldiers of the Russian Army as they were awaiting the political upheaval that would unseat the Czar in 1917. It was such a good book that it had to be treated with care in public comment and presentation in the Western media in 2001-2005.



While Buchan is not explicit in his comments on the outcome of the Gallipoli

campaign, and the role of British and Imperial troops in making the campaign so costly for the Turks, it is none the less obvious from his descriptions of the context that the size of the Ottoman losses at the Dardanelles were de-railing Enver's plans for opening an offensive into the Caucasus, seizing north-west Persia and depriving Britain of her essential naval fuel supplies, taking over the Suez Canal and then promoting Islamic revolution through the Middle East, North Africa and India.

Therefore when we think about the Gallipoli campaign and Australia's part in it, we should set the outcome in this wider context. There is no escaping the fact that the outcome was a defeat for all the invading forces, but had that campaign not been so hard fought, the Turks might have avoided the heavy losses it caused them, and still had that critical mass of troops necessary to hold off the Russians, take the offensive into the Suez Canal area and the British oilfields, and give Islamic people much more encouragement to rise up and cause chaos for Britain. Instead the Turks became an ever-increasing burden on the Germans and Austrians at a time when both of the Central Powers were being hard pressed on other vital fronts.

[Those who wish to read further on this subject should consult Eugene Rogan's *The Fall of the Ottomans*, Allen Lane, Great Britain, 2015, ISBN 978-1-846-14438-7]

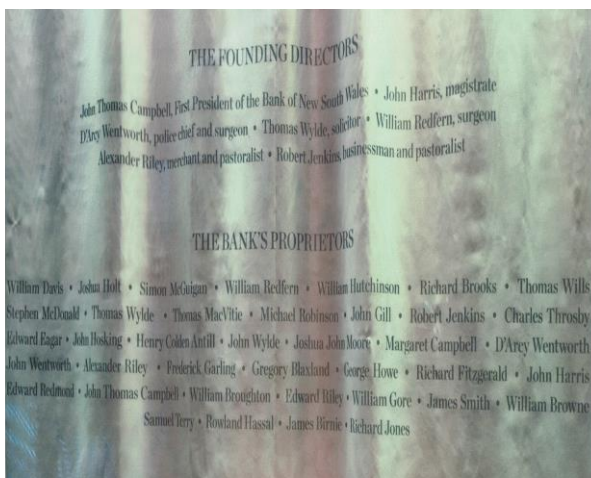
Dr Robert O'Neill AO FASSA

*Robert O'Neill is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). A Duntroon graduate, he won a Rhodes Scholarship and while at Oxford completed a doctorate in military history and wrote *The German Army and the Nazi Party, 1933-1939*. He was an infantry captain in Vietnam, 1966-67, and while there wrote his second book, *Vietnam Task*, followed by *General Giap: Politician and Strategist*. He held senior appointments at the ANU, 1970-82, and while there wrote the two-volume official history of Australia's role in the Korean War. In 1982 he moved to London as Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and in 1987 was appointed Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford. He was Chairman of the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, 1996-2001, and Chairman of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, 1998-2001. On his return to Australia, he chaired the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 2000-2005, and served on the board of the Lowy Institute, 2003-2012.*

HARRIS FAMILY'S CONNECTION WITH BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES/WESTPAC

Westpac Bank in 2017 celebrated its 200th anniversary and I record some details of my family's connection with the Bank.

We have had a strong connection through the 200 years, beginning with Dr John Harris who was one of the founding directors of the Bank in April 1817 and one of the original shareholders. There were seven directors and 39 shareholders. This is the list of the directors and shareholders which was on display at the special Bicentenary Exhibition at Carriageworks in Chippendale in April 2017.



Note that the Bank's shareholders are called the proprietors, which has been a

long-standing tradition.

These subscribing shareholders paid for their shares by instalments over the first three years up to 1820. By the end of 181 they had paid up £3,625 to the Bank and by the end of 1820 they had paid their full subscribing amounts totalling £12,500.

The Bank's archives contain the names of those subscribers and the amounts each one contributed. By 1820 Dr Harris had subscribed £200. As shares were issued at £100 each, that means he had two shares originally.

He was not by any means the biggest shareholder. That honour went to the first President of the Bank, John Thomas Campbell, at £1,200. Second was Dr Darcy Wentworth at £1,000. Samuel Terry, known as The Botany Bay Rothschild, and Captain Henry Colden Antill, Governor Macquarie's aide-de-camp, were equal third at £500 each.

The Bank opened for business on Tuesday 8th April 1817 when the original directors and staff assembled in Macquarie Place Sydney and walked across the street to the Bank's first premises, the large house owned by Mary Reibey, of which the Bank had taken a lease.

Once inside, Dr John Harris made the only deposit on that opening day, a sum of £138. He is called the Bank's first official customer.

In addition that day the bank started transacting its business. This consisted, amongst other things, of the issue of Australia's first bank notes, backed by the Bank's reserves, which amounted to the capital that those original shareholders had subscribed.



This is one of those first bank notes, for ten shillings, signed for the Bank by Dr Harris and a fellow director Robert Jenkins, and dated that very first day in Mary Reibey's house. It bears the number 55, so there must have been quite a bit of signing on that first day. This bank note was also on display at the Bicentenary Exhibition at Carriageworks. It had lain undiscovered in Scotland until 2015 when Westpac learnt of its existence and bought it back. For a lot more than ten shillings, I believe!

I am not sure when passbooks were first issued to customers. The oldest existing passbook which the bank knows of is Mary Reibey's, which was also on display at Carriageworks. It shows her transactions from 1819 to 1822.

I own Dr Harris's passbook from 1830, which must be one of the oldest now existing.

Dr					Cr				
The Bank of					In Account Current				
New South Wales					with				
					John Harris Esq.				
1830	Oct 10	Cash	1	40	1830	July 16	John Harris L	5	
1831	Feb 18	do		16	Oct 12	Self		25	
1832	Nov 30	Dividend	23	5 4		Bank Stock		10	
1833	July 22	do	29	5	1831	do	Harris		5
	May 1	do	58	17 6	July 16	Order			
	Aug 1	do	61	13 4	1834	Self		9	
	Sept 10	Cash	362	3 7	May 10	Harris		10	
	Dec 17	do	42	12 11	1835	Bank Stock		5	
1835	July 2	Dividend	111	10	May 11	do		435	
		Can		742 8 10	Sept 7	do			
						Can		725	
								1229	

Presumably he was issued with an earlier one but that has not survived, unfortunately. This one is a lovely little vellum-bound book, and bears the bookplate of stationers Grosvenor Chater and Company of Cornhill, London.



The Bank must have had a contract with them to supply its passbooks. Among the credits into his account are his bank dividends during the 1830s (which are quite handsome amounts!) and among the debits are his frequent payments for more Bank stock. The book shows he was still buying Bank stock until his death in 1838.

Over the next 200 years many Harrises have been customers and shareholders of the bank and I have quite a lot of memorabilia about these. For example, when my great-grandfather, John Harris, who had been Mayor of Sydney and opened the Town Hall, died in 1911, his probate document, of which I have a copy, shows him owning £127,000 worth of property, mostly real estate in Ultimo and Pyrmont, but having an overdraft with the Bank of NSW of £27,000. Even though this overdraft was secured on the real estate it must have been a very high overdraft for those days and indicates the standing which he held in the eyes of the bank.

When Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead opened the Bank of NSW Savings Bank in 1956 my father, who was also John Harris, joined a queue at Sydney Office 341 George Street and opened a first day account for me numbered 350, and I still have my passbook for that.

When Westpac Banking Corporation commenced business on 1 October 1982 I opened a first day account at Sydney Office for my two little girls. I wrote to the Bank informing them and shortly after I received two letters of appreciation, one dated that opening day and signed and personally hand-delivered to me at my office by the Chief Manager of Sydney Office, Ken Shepherd, and the other from Robert James White, Director and Chief General Manager of Westpac. Mr White said “I was very pleased indeed to learn of your family’s unique relationship with the Bank and I am going to place a copy of your letter in the archives. Thank you for letting us have this interesting information.” Bob White was a member of the Australasian Pioneers’ Club and of the Union, University & Schools Club; he died in June last year.

On 11 April 2017, I was honoured by being invited with my family to the Bank’s Bicentenary Lunch at Carriageworks, at which Mr Brian Hartzler in his address spoke of the presence of descendants of two of the original shareholders, Dr Harris and Samuel Terry, and their continuing connection with the Bank. Later Mr Hartzler came over to meet me and my family and I was in turn introduced to the current-day Sam Terry. An unforgettable day!

John Harris

Member/Contributor



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