

Carving by Eddie McDonald

This carving by Eddie McDonald shows the bond between the Ararat RSL and the Maori Community and commemorates 100 years of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. The landing resonates in the history of Australia and New Zealand.

A story of our young people, of both native and migrant background who forged the spirit of our two nations. A simple but spiritual story is told, by using the traditional carving of the Maori and the painting of the Aboriginal. It pays tribute to all of the men from 'under the Southern Cross' who landed at ANZAC Cove. A story that is presented to and belongs to the Ararat community. By telling the story of our tipuna (ancestors) from both sides of the Tasman we commemorate the landing at ANZAC Cove, acknowledge the bond, sacrifices, those that were broken, the families and loved ones, and our nations' history. Made of messmate wood, milled at Mt. Cole, consists of two pieces joined. It reads from left to right.

Tangaroa is the Maori guardian of the seas ; he represents the safe journey of the ANZACs, his eyes are polished paua shell from the shores of New Zealand, one arm and one leg touch the frame, along with one leg of the goanna, to signify the completeness of the story. Tangaroa's legs for a representation of the hammer head shark to signify the strength of the warriors, although he carries no weapons, he has the whip of a stingray. Goanna is the Aboriginal guardian of the spirits, painted by an Aboriginal from Horsham.

He is entwined with Tangaroa signifying life, and strength in passing, a bond between all of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers regardless of background. The colours acknowledge the Black Diggers, and with Tangaroa provide light in contrast to the black of the background, life and passing. Tangaroa and Goanna stand amid stones sent from the beaches of Albany, Western Australia, to signify the last standing place in the southern hemisphere before departure. The Southern Cross was carved from sheep bone, representing the families and loved ones who although in the southern hemisphere were with them in spirit. It also acknowledges the ANZACs that returned home as broken men.

The tail of Tangaroa shows the ribs of the ancestors, the dip in the tail representing 'at the going down of the sun'. The raising of the tail of Goanna representing 'and in the morning, we will remember them'. A single red line from Tangaroa's tail to the shore of Gallipoli represents the blood that was spilt. ANZAC Cove is carved along the sea and sky. The landscape is silhouette and the sky dark to represent the landing at dawn. An emblem from Istanbul, imbedded in the landscape represents the Turkish people who honour and care for the ANZACs remaining behind at memorial sites. A simple but spiritual story of the ANZAC journey to Gallipoli, of the forging of bonds and the landing at ANZAC Cove.