

Member	Kim O'Keeffe	Electorate	Shepparton
Period	1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$13,587.98
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$7,396.48
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Melbourne

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$0.00

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
16/04/2025	29/04/2025	Airport Parking for ANZAC Delegation	\$180.95	Airport Parking	\$180.95

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 13

Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$180.95

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
16/04/2025	29/04/2025	Travel Turkish Airlines to Gallipoli for Electorate Duties	\$2,388.50
17/04/2025	28/04/2025	Victorian Members of Parliament delegation to Türkiye representing the people of the Shepparton electorate.	\$4,213.21

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 13

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$6,601.71

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

TÜRKIYE AND GALLIPOLI ANZAC DELEGATION

Kim O’Keeffe MP – State Member for Shepparton



Thursday 17 April 2025 – Tuesday 29 April 2025

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

During April 2025 I was a participant in a cross-party Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation to Türkiye to attend ANZAC Memorial Services, visit places of cultural significance, engage with the Turkish Government and Parliament and agencies.

The purpose of this trip was primarily to attend the 110th ANZAC Day memorial services and to represent the electorate of Shepparton District at commemoration ceremonies.

I wanted to deepen my understanding of the Gallipoli campaign, walk on ground considered sacred by Australia, New Zealand, as well as host nation, Türkiye, and to pay my respects to our soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice, reflecting on their final resting place.

This Victorian Members of Parliament ANZAC Delegation is an annual tradition for State Members of Parliament. I wish to extend my appreciation to The Hon. Tim Bull MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, The Nationals Member for Gippsland East for his efforts in assisting me with my preparation prior to this trip. A special thank you to the Shepparton Historic Society and Sophie Birrell who assisted me in my research to find the location of the burial sites of my local fallen soldiers.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond, through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli), particularly around ANZAC Cove, Cape Helles, and Sulva Bay.

This year marks the 110th anniversary since the Gallipoli campaign that forged the spirit of the ANZACs of mateship, camaraderie and mutual respect. Values that now form part of the national identity of Australia, New Zealand and Türkiye.

Since that time, Australia and Türkiye have become close friends and share in commemorations on ANZAC Day as well as throughout the year as thousands of Australians make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli to pay their respects and honour the fallen.

As a State Member of Parliament, we are uniquely positioned to represent our communities, and on returning from such commemorations, share our experiences and insights with schools, service clubs, and community groups. And I firmly believe that we must continue to honour the service and sacrifice of Australians who have served and continue to serve our great country. I feel honoured to have visited some of the Graves of the Shepparton District and the care and dignity afforded the monuments and cemeteries.



SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND VISITS

17 April 2025

Departed Melbourne for Istanbul.

18 April 2025

Attended a Good Friday Service at the Church of Saint Antony of Padua in Istanbul.

This is the largest Catholic church located in İstiklal Caddesi in Istanbul, in Türkiye. Built in 1725 by the Italian community in Istanbul. The masses are delivered in Italian.

19 April 2025

The delegation met with the Parliamentary Protocol Team of the Turkish Parliament.

Visited the Ayasofya Mosque, Topkapı Palace İstanbul.

20 April 2025

The delegation was given a tour of Dolmabahçe Place before being transferred to Istanbul Airport to travel to Ankara.

21 April 2025

The delegation departed from Ankara to Cappadocia, including a city tour of historical sites and had a meeting with Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul and the Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Ürgüp. We were warmly welcomed by the Mayor, and I had the opportunity to inform him of the strengths of my region including our strong farming, agriculture, dairy and manufacturing industries. We also discussed the diversity of my community and my role as the Assistant Shadow Minister for Regional Multicultural affairs. I took great pride in also informing Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul that I was a former Mayor and now proudly representing State Parliament.



22 April 2025

The delegation had the honour of visiting the Mausoleum of Atatürk (Anıtkabir) to pay our respects, lay a wreath, and sign the Book of Honour.

It serves as the resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Our visit was an official visit on behalf of our community and the Victorian Parliament. It was very special to participate in the ceremony that was organised specifically for our visit and delegation.



23 April 2025

The delegation visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), where we joined a reception hosted by, HE Halil Eldemir, the President of Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group.

We also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation of the TGNA and were given a guided tour of the TGNA.

This coincides with National Children's Day in Türkiye, a very significant day in Türkiye that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people.





24 April 2025

The delegation attended the ceremony for the 110th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale. The service was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture Gökhan Yazgi.

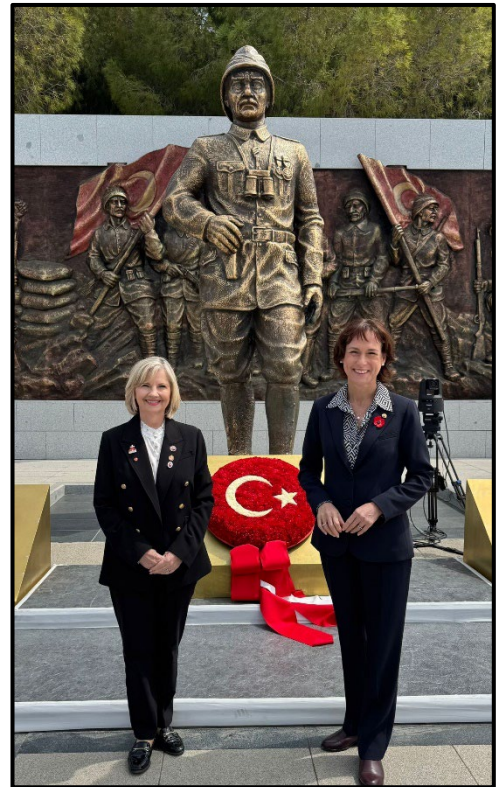
A speech was also made by director of Gallipoli Historic Site, Mr Ismail Kasdemir. HRH Princess Ann, the Princess Royale made a speech on behalf of the Allies. This was followed by a military parade by armed forces and Veterans including Turkish, and Commonwealth countries service members.

It was special to join the dignitaries and to pay my respects to the fallen Turkish soldiers.

We also got to watch the Soloturk Turkish Airforce Aerobatics Team, following the formal proceeding of the Turkish Commemoration.

We also attended the Commemoration of France at the French Military Cemetery followed by the Commemoration of the United Kingdom at the Commonwealth and Ireland Memorial.

Following the ceremony, I attended the Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial Ceremony.



25 April 2025

The delegation attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments jointly conduct the Anzac Day Gallipoli Dawn service on 25 April each year at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli Türkiye.

The Dawn Service is an important time for reflection on the service and sacrifice of our state's veterans.

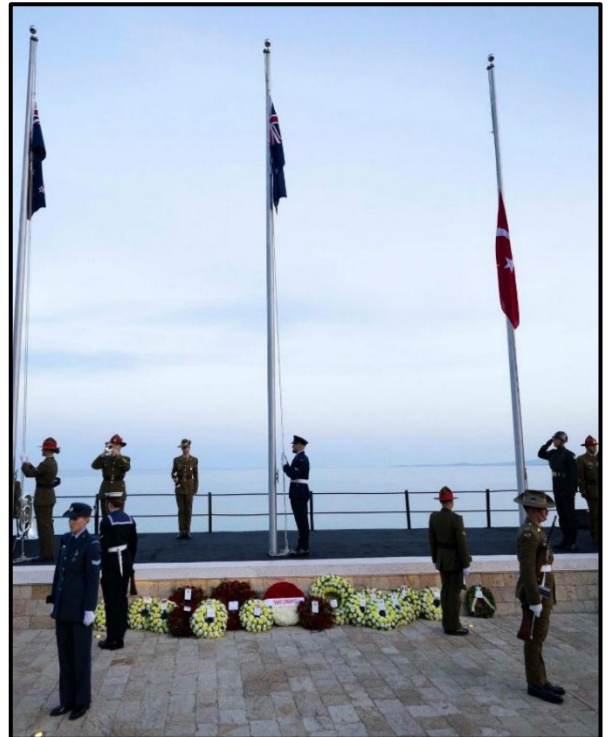
Delegation members joined over 1500 travellers from Australia and New Zealand, joined Turkish and other dignitaries at the former World War I battlefields at Gallipoli for a solemn service at Dawn.

As the sun rose, participants held a minute of silence to reflect on the sacrifices of tens of thousands of soldiers from the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, who landed at the beaches at Gallipoli, in north-west Türkiye. I felt so honoured to be there.

Following the Dawn Service, delegation members paid their respects at the Lone Pine Monument, commemorating the 3,628 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who died in the campaign and have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea.

This was a significant service and an honour to lay wreath in honour of our fallen soldiers. I also got to visit the graves of soldiers from my electorate who are honoured at Lone Pine.

We also paid our respects and visited the Chunuk Bair Memorial.



26 & 27 April 2025

The delegation visited the Troy Museum, Troy Archaeological site then departed for Istanbul.

We also visited the Sultan Ahmet Mosque and the Basilica Cistern followed by a boat tour of the Bosphorus.

28 April 2025

The delegation met with business representatives, including CEO Mr Enver Cetin.

We also met with the Chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council.

29 April 2025

We met with the Maarif Vakfi, Dr Murtaza Yetis, and members from the Turkish Education Foundation. The foundation currently has a number of schools in Australia, including in Kilmore, Victoria. I spoke about my diverse and multicultural community and some of the challenges that our new migrants face, but also the educational opportunities and support provided.

Departed Istanbul for Melbourne.



COMMERICAL TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

Commercial Flights (Domestic)

- Istanbul to Ankara (20/04/2025) - \$216.16
- Ankara to Çanakkale (23/04/2025) - \$216.16
- Çanakkale to Istanbul (26/04/2025) - \$162.00

TOTAL COST: \$594.32

Accommodation

- Istanbul (17/04/2025 to 20/04/2025) - \$1,599.85
- Ankara (20/04/2025 to 21/04/2025) - \$430.19
- Cappadocia (21/04/2025 to 22/04/2025) - \$460.74
- Ankara (22/04/2025 to 23/04/2025) - \$292.66
- Çanakkale (23/04/2025 to 26/04/2025) - \$886.44
- Istanbul (26/04/2025 to 28/04/2025) - \$1,451.14

TOTAL COST: \$5,121.02

Reason

Domestic flights and accommodation in Türkiye on electorate business to undertake research and represent the views and interests of the Shepparton District at various ANZAC events and activities.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS GRAVES – GALLIPOLI WAR CEMETERIES

It was very emotional to visit the grave sites of the soldiers from the Shepparton District that did not make it home.

The Shepparton Historical Society and Shepparton RSL assisted me in my research to find the location of the burial sites of our fallen soldiers.

Private William Reymond Bowen

REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	23 rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F
KILLED IN ACTION	13 September 1915

Private Bowen was the son of William Fredrick and Henrietta Bowen of Shepparton. He was killed in action on September 13 1915 on Gallipoli, almost five months after the first landing at just 22 years of age.

Bowen was enlisted on February 25 of the same year in which he was killed in action and prior to joining the Australian Imperial Force he worked as a hairdresser in Shepparton.

He embarked from Melbourne onboard HMAT Euripides on May 10 1915 for service in Gallipoli as part of the 23rd Australian Infantry Battalion.

The inscription on his grave in Lone Pine Cemetery reads “His young life ended; duty nobly done.”



Private Hugh Barclay Graham

REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	7 th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F
KILLED IN ACTION	25 April 1915
MEDALS	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Private Graham was the son of Alexander and Jeanette Graham of 35 Maude Street, Shepparton.

His brother, Walter Graham, returned to Australia on November 15 1918, after serving with the 7th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Hugh Barclay Graham was reported missing in action April 25 1915 at Gallipoli. Subsequent inquiries confirmed that he was killed on that date. The sad news was conveyed to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alec Graham of Maude Street, Shepparton, by Rev. George Paul, under instructions from the Defence Department. Prior to enlisting Private Graham worked as a moulder at Furphy's Foundry.



Private James Munro

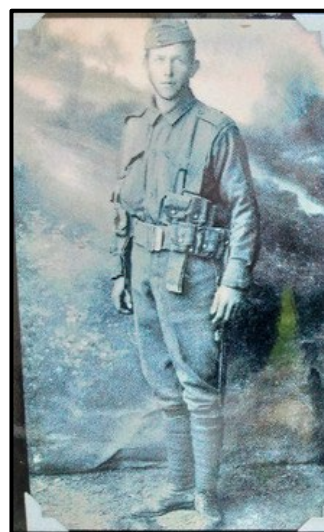
REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 7 th Battalion
KILLED IN ACTION	Between 25 April 1915 and 2 May 1915

Private Munro was the son of Alexander and Katherine Munro of St. Germain's.

He was raised in Mooroopna and attended Mooroopna State School, before enlisting on August 18 1914 at Shepparton, leaving behind his job as a farm labourer.

It is likely he was killed in action on the first day of the Gallipoli landing.

Private Munro is commemorated at No.2 Outpost Cemetery and included in Memorials at the Kyabram War Memorial, Nathalia War Memorial and on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour.



Trooper Raymond Walter Patterson

REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	8 th Australian Light Horse Regiment
KILLED IN ACTION	7 August 1915

Raymond Walter Patterson, son of Sarah Jane Patterson of Lightfoot Street, Shepparton, served with the 8th Light Horse, 5th Reinforcements.

News of his death in action was received on a Tuesday and conveyed to his sister Mrs. Bert Knight, by Reverend Geo. Paul. He had been reported missing since August 6.

Born in the Caniambo District, Patterson was educated at Violet Town State School and worked in farming for several years before enlisting.

He celebrated his 21st birthday at Broadmeadows training camp.

A dedicated member of the 15th Light Horse, C Squadron (Shepparton Troop), he was well-regarded by his comrades.

His brother, Private Robert (Roy) Patterson, also served at the front.



Private James Alfred Michael Power

REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	24 th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.
KILLED IN ACTION	29 November 1915

Private Thomas Power was born in Rochester, Victoria, and had close ties to the Shepparton community.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served with the 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry.

Assigned service number 736, he was deployed to the Gallipoli Peninsula, during the First World War.

On November 29 1915, he was killed in action during the campaign against Ottoman forces at 21 years old.

Power is buried at Lone Pine Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



Trooper Stanley Howard Taylor

REGIMENT & UNIT/SHIP	8 th Australian Light Horse Regiment
KILLED IN ACTION	7 August 1915

Trooper William Taylor was born in Shepparton, Victoria, and was the son of William and Alice Taylor of Blanche Street, Brighton North.

He was enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served with the 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment during the First World War.

Holding service number 75, he was deployed to the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of Australia's military campaign against the Ottoman Empire.

On August 7 1915, he was killed in action at the age of 25.

Trooper Taylor has no known grave and is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial in Turkey, on Panel 8.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is remarkable how the relationship between Australia and Türkiye has evolved from fierce conflict of the Gallipoli campaign to now one of sharing a unique part of history, friendship and growing economic ties.

It was an honour to travel to Türkiye on this cross-party delegation of Members of the Victorian Parliament, to follow in the footsteps of the ANZACs that have come before us, lay a wreath on behalf of the Shepparton District, and visit the graves of the fallen men from the Shepparton District.

It was very moving to visit the grave sites of our local men who lost their lives serving our nation. These men were young and our heroes, who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Attending the Anzac services and visiting the soldiers' sites was such a privilege and has had a profound and lasting impact on me, as has this whole experience. something that I will remember and share for rest of my life.

It is important that we never forget their sacrifice and service to our great country.

LEST WE FORGET.

