**SPEECH BY AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER**

**HE GEOFF TOOTH, AT THE NAIROBI ANZAC DAY CEREMONY, 25 APRIL 2013**

Good morning. My name is Geoff Tooth and I am Australia’s High Commissioner to Kenya. Thank you all for attending today and keeping away the rain. You have in your program an order of service. At the end of the ceremony we hope that everyone can attend an ANZAC breakfast and enjoy some traditional refreshments at the entrance area.

Let me begin by saying how wonderful it is to see so many Australians and New Zealanders, and especially children, here today.

I would also like to acknowledge and warmly welcome the veterans, members of the diplomatic corps, defence attaches and representatives of the Kenyan Government who have joined us today. Can I recognise in particular my friend the Ambassador of Turkey. Your Excellency, your country has honoured the ANZACs that fell at Gallipoli and embraced them as your own sons. Your country has named a place in honour of our heroes at ANZAC cove. No nation could have better guarded our shrines on Turkish shores or more generously welcomed our pilgrims. Our debt to Turkey is a deep one.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls

Our debt to the ANZACs is similarly deep. They gave Australia and New Zealand a moment in history to inspire us for all time, a story to pass to succeeding generations, a tale to build a national identity on. Theirs were lives of bravery and sacrifice inspired by patriotism, by high ideals, by faith, by a chance of adventure, by friendship and by a love of country. They left Australia and New Zealand with a legacy of belief in ourselves and our democracies.

Through them and through this day we have gained a deeper understanding of what it means to be an Australian and a New Zealander and a citizen of the world

ANZAC Day is not a day for stirring military parades and presentations of power. It is instead a day of gatherings and reminders, a day for veterans and their families, of reunions, of services like this one, of community involvement, of reflection.

It is a day to remember Pilot Officer Brian Fowler from Auckland, New Zealand and Able Seaman Victor Jarius of Sydney, Australia, two ANZAC sons who have been embraced and cared for by Kenya in this beautiful place.

It is a day to think about another young Australian buried on that distant shore where the first landing at Gallipoli took place. His headstone simply reads:

“Died aged 18 near this spot, April 25, 1915, Did his best.”

He did his best and that is what we must do too.

Like Charlotte who will speak later this morning,

Like thousands of others, young and old, in war and in peace, that are trying to change the world for the better, whatever the cost to themselves.

For we do not celebrate our victories today, nor do we wallow in our defeats, nor do we glorify conflict. What we are doing is remembering the sacrifice of so many and elevating for all to see the hope for humanity embodied in the spirit of the ANZAC.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls

This spirit is not unique to those who landed at ANZAC cove, or fought in World War 1, or any of the many other wars that have occurred since. Each and every one of us has it within. The spirit of the ANZAC is also the spirit that underlies volunteerism, community service, and helping others.

We can honour the ANZAC’s best by standing-up against injustice, by looking after the most vulnerable in our communities, by supporting good causes, by contributing to projects that lift the poor out of poverty, by making a difference in our town, our street, and even in our family.

We honour the ANZACs by letting them inspire us to contribute to peace and a better world.

Let us never forget.