

Member	Cindy McLeish	Electorate	Eildon
Period	1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$14,470.75
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$3,340.96

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	\$7,139.44
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Southbank

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
Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance			\$0.00		

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
17-Apr-24	26-Apr-24	Return Flights from Melbourne to Istanbul on electorate business to undertake research and represent the views and interests of constituents at various ANZAC events and activities	\$6,768.10
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			9
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$6,768.10
See attached travel report for further details			

Cindy McLeish MP State Member for Eildon

Victorian MP Delegation 2024

Parliamentary Travel Report

18 April 2024 – 28 April 2024



Attendees:

Natalie Suleyman MP, State Member for St Albans
Tim Bull MP, State Member for Gippsland East
Ella George MP, State Member for Lara
Belinda Wilson MP, State Member for Narre Warren North
Juliana Addison MP, State Member for Wendouree
Emma Kealy MP, State Member for Lowan
Luba Grigorovitch MP, State Member for Kororoit
Pauline Richards MP, State Member for Cranbourne
Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood
Anthony Cianflone MP, State Member for Pascoe Vale
Cindy McLeish MP, State Member for Eildon
Martin Cameron MP, State Member for Morwell
John Berger MP, State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region
Tim McCurdy MP, State Member for Ovens Valley

Statement of Objectives:

In April 2024, I took part in a cross-party Victorian Parliamentary Delegation to Türkiye to attend the Anzac Memorial Services, visit places of cultural significance, and engage with the Turkish Government and Parliament.

This Victorian Parliament's Anzac Delegation is an annual tradition for State Members of Parliament. After a pause on travel due to the pandemic, this tradition has returned in 2024. It was my honour/pleasure to represent the people of Eildon on the delegation.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond – through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli). This year marks the 109th 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 and throughout the year as thousands of Australians make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli to pay their respects and honour the fallen.

Victoria is home to the largest Turkish community in Australia.

By fostering these economic and cultural ties between Victoria and Türkiye, we can develop further economic opportunities for both communities.

Summary of meetings and visits:

18 April 2024

Melbourne to Istanbul

Accommodation Istanbul Conrad Hotel 18-21 April \$1745.15

19 April 2024

20 April 2024 – 21 April 2024

The Delegation visited the major cultural and historical sites of Istanbul which included the Dolmabahçe Palace, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Topkapı Palace, the Bosphorus and the Grand Bazaar. These are places of immense historical and cultural significance for Türkiye.

We met with the chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council. Mr Steven Young is an Australian of Turkish heritage based in Istanbul, we spoke about growing business ties between Australia and Türkiye. He noted the opportunities that direct flights between Melbourne and Istanbul presented for business, trade and tourism.



22 April 2024

Depart Istanbul travel to Ankara

Flight Turkish Airlines \$81

Accommodation Ankara Hilton 22 April \$212.56

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.





Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the founder of the Republic of Türkiye and served as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938.

During the ANZAC campaign, Atatürk was the commander in charge of Turkish forces.

After the Gallipoli campaign, Atatürk famously said:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours...

You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears;

Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.

After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

The Delegation paused to view the words inscribed into the stone of the Mausoleum and reflect on the significance of this statement which has become an enduring symbol of the relationship between Türkiye and Australia.

We joined with the Australian Ambassador Mr Miles Armitage from the Embassy of Australia in Ankara, and Parliamentarians of the Türkiye Australia friends group from the Turkish Grand Assembly.

23 April 2024

Delegation members visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA).

The TGNA has 600 members and is located in Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye.

The Delegation joined a reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Member of Parliament for Bilecik. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception.

We also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation of the TGNA and a guided tour of the TGNA. This coincides with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye – a very significant day in Türkiye that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people.

Finally, we met with HE Bekir Bozdağ, the Deputy Speaker of TGNA.

We then departed Ankara to Çanakkale (domestic flight).





Pictures above: Meeting with Members of Parliament of the Grand Assembly, including Halil Eldemir, Sureyya Ones Derici, Ismail Faruk Aksu, Dr. Muzeyyen Sevkin, Onder Aksakal.

Flight Turkish Airlines Ankara to Çanakkale \$81

Accomodation Çanakkale Kolin Hotel 23-25 April \$728.14

24 April 2024 Turkish Service.

The Delegation attended the Ceremony for the 109th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale, where the President of the Gallipoli Historic Site, Ismail Kasdemir, delivered a moving speech. Mr Kasdemir particularly spoke about the common ground that Gallipoli now represents as a sacred meeting place to reflect and commemorate.

25 April 2024

Dawn Service

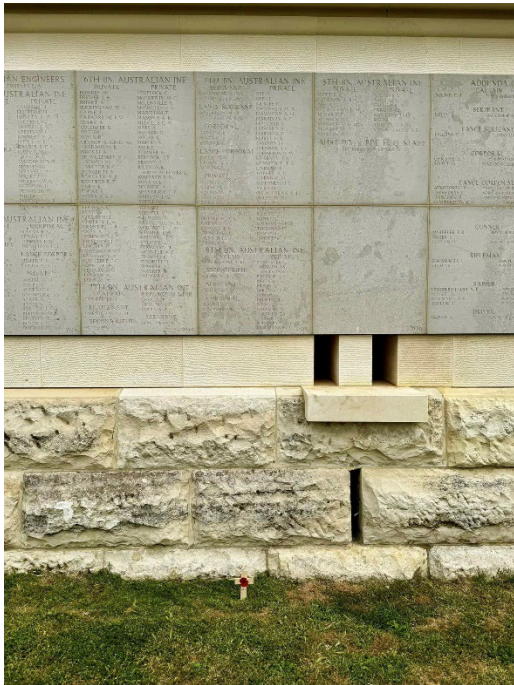
The Delegation attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Anzac Cove.

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

The Delegation 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.



It is so important that Australians continue to make the journey to Gallipoli, to pay their respects to our ANZACs, and remember our significant wartime history and we should continue to support Australians join this service in the future.





Following the Dawn Service, we paid our respects at the Lone Pine Monument, commemorating the 3,268 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 with many Delegation members visiting the graves of soldiers from their electorates honoured at Lone Pine.

The Australian Dawn service was followed by services for the the armed forces of France, United Kingdom and New Zealand.



Gravesites Visited

Many local soldiers lost their young lives at Gallipoli in unimaginable circumstances. Although it is easy to say it was an honour and a privilege to visit the graves across a number of very well maintained cemeteries, it really was. Very humbling. I have provided a snap shot of some graves visited and their local connection.

Shrapnel Valley Cemetery

Leslie McKenzie, 1788, 8th Battalion, of Yea, grave II.A.28, age 18, died August 7, 1915

- The McKenzie family, like my family have been in the Yea area since the mid 1800's. Leslie McKenzie and Vincent McKenzie (who returned) are both cousins the father of local Yea identity Elaine White, who I know well.
- The original McKenzie settler moved from Yea to Bathurst (chasing Gold) and left two grown sons here, Jim and Charles McKenzie. Jim settled at Limestone and was the father of Leslie and Vincent and Charles, Elaine's grandfather took over the family property at Junction Hill.
- Visiting Leslie's grave added a very personal touch to me.

Ari Burni Cemetery

Victor Blakeney, 338, 8th Light Horse, of Yarck, grave A.7, age 22, died August 7, 1915

- Blakeney's cutting is on the Maroondah link between Yarck and Alexandra such indicative of the presence of the Blakeney family in the area.
- Jan Coonan (nee Blakeney) was one of my teachers at school. She informed me that Victor was her grandfathers brother and was thrilled I was able to visit his gravesite. Jan and her family, many of whom I know, were touched I could visit and send them a photo.

Leo Anderson, 8th Light Horse, of Warburton, grave G.11, age 20, died August 7, 1915

- I was struck that at such a young age, Leo was a Lieutenant – perhaps he was a master horseman or more likely he had rapid promotion as he had been at Duntroon (as his war history indicates) prior to heading overseas.
- Leo was born in Launching place in the Upper Yarra.
- Light Horseman in Gallipoli were deployed as back up soldiers and did not have their horses.
- Lt Leo William Hall Anderson was killed in action on 7 August 1915 during the charge towards the Turkish trenches at The Nek.
- In command of A Troop that attacked in the first wave at 4.30 am, he was shot in the back and found cover on the exposed side of The Nek.
- At 7am, Major McLaurin and Trumpeter Lelsie Awry crawled out and dragged him back to the Anzac trenches.
- He died of his wounds at around 7 pm on the same day.
- He is commemorated on the Ballarat War Memorial and by Tree 331 on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour

Beach Cemetery

John Simpson Kirkpatrick, Served as 202 Private J Simpson, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 19 May 1915, 22 years

- Not local but widely recognised for his heroic efforts with his donkey to assist and move his wounded mates
- Now resting at such a beautiful place by the sea





JOHN SIMPSON
KIRKPATRICK SERVED AS
202 PRIVATE
J. SIMPSON
AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
19 MAY 1915 AGE 22

HE GAVE HIS LIFE
THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE





26 April 2024

Delegation concludes.

Expenses - AUD

Accommodation:

- Istanbul 4 nights \$1,745.15
- Ankara 1 night \$212.56
- Çanakkale 3 nights \$728.14

Internal flights

- Istanbul to Ankara to Çanakkale \$165

Concluding remarks:

Victoria and Türkiye have long had strong cultural, historical, social and economic ties which can be strengthened even further between our communities and governments.

True to the word of Attaturk all those years ago in 1934 when he reached out to the mothers of his former enemies, Turkiye has well looked after our fallen. The cemeteries and graves which are beautifully maintained are testament to this. Further Turkiye's efforts to facilitate both Australia & New Zealand visitors to the the area at all times during the year, but in particular at ANZAC day, which brings heightened security is greatly appreciated and to be commended.

Attaturk's words have become famous and are enshrined in many places on the Gallipoli Penninsula including prominently on at Lone Pine Cemetery.

*"Those heroes that shed their blood
And lost their lives.
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.
Therefore, rest in peace.
There is no difference between the Johnnies
And the Mehmeets to us where they lie side by side
Here in this country of ours,
You, the mothers,
Who sent their sons from far away countries
Wipe away your tears,
Your sons are now lying in our bosom
And are in peace
After having lost their lives on this land they have
Become our sons as well".*

