



## Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

**Australia ICOMOS Conference**  
5-8 November 2015  
Adelaide Australia



### **Dr Peter Dowling**

Dr Peter Dowling is the National Heritage Officer for the Australian Council of National Trusts. He studied archaeology, history and biological anthropology at the Australian National University. In 1997 he worked with the ACT National Trust as a historical consultant researching and preparing nominations of places for the ACT Heritage Register and the National Trust Classified Places Register.

In 2010 Peter moved to the Australian Council of National Trusts working on projects of national significance and also moonlights as a historian working as a consultant on Conservation and Management Plans on places of local and national heritage significance. In another role as a tour guide Peter has taken groups from Australia and New Zealand over the Gallipoli battlefields discussing the various conflicts during the 1915 campaign at the sites where they took place. Peter is a member of Australia ICOMOS.

### **Gallipoli 100 years on – Memory, commemoration, myths and misunderstandings**

#### **Paper Abstract**

No matter how we perceive it today, Gallipoli (or rather Australia's role in the conflict at Anzac on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915) was a defining moment in Australia's history. It was a monumental event for the people of Australia at the time and so has become deeply embedded in the nationalistic pantheon of Australia with commemorations across the continent each year.

Thousands of Australians, young and old, visit the battlefields of Anzac each year as pilgrimage of respect and commemoration for those who fought there. But during the commemorative narratives many of the events and perceptions surrounding Gallipoli and the Anzacs have been subjected to the apparition of myth and misunderstanding replacing reality. After 100 years some of these myths are still firmly embedded in our perceptions of what happened at Gallipoli.

This paper will examine a few of the major myths/misunderstandings (there are too many to discuss here), which are constantly rolled out by commentators (not excluding our political leaders) writers and educators. An aim of this paper is to put at least some of them to rest, but is that being too expectant, hopeful or pedantic?