

MILITARY TRAIL

Maryborough's world-class Walk With the Anzacs Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial is of such significance to the country that the nation's Prime Minister joined the Queensland Premier and local Mayor to open it in 2018.

At the heart of the tribute to Australia's involvement in World War I is a bronze, life-size statue of Maryborough's son Duncan Chapman – the first Anzac ashore at Gallipoli.

The interactive memorial along the edge of Queens Park includes towering, rusted steel columns, as high as 8m, representing the cliffs of Gallipoli; sleek, ironbark representations of the boats that landed; the sounds of marching boots and the softly told personal stories of soldiers.

It is one of the highlights of the new Fraser Coast Military Trail which weaves an intriguing tapestry of tales from Fraser Island to Brooweena.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

One of the 'must see' features of the trail is the Maryborough Military and Historical Museum, considered the best outside Canberra.

The \$17 million museum complex is packed with more than 10,000 artefacts including



an original Victoria Cross medal group for Gallipoli.

The museum was established by Maryborough's John and Else Meyers in memory of their teenage children who died in a car crash in 1982. Their son, 18, was serving in the military at the time and their daughter was just 16.

OTHER TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- the magnificent, life-size bronze statue of a horse and rider from the 5th Light Horse Regiment in full charge during the October 1917 Battle of Beersheba, erected in Freedom Park, Pinalba by the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch in 2014, paying tribute to the soldiers and the 160,000 horses that went to war

- the training ground of Z Special Unit on Fraser Island, where the forerunner to Australia's Special Air Service regiments trained for the daring 3000 nautical mile raid in the 21m wooden-hulled MV *Krait* from Sydney to Singapore harbour to destroy Japanese ships
- the wreck of the hospital ship *Maheno*, now lying in the sand on the eastern side of Fraser Island, but once a beacon of hope for soldiers wounded in the Gallipoli campaign. The *Maheno*, later a merchant ship, stood off Anzac Cove the day after the Gallipoli landing and treated casualties from the Battle of Hill 60

For more information, log on to visitfrasercoast.com/military-trail



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