



Gallipoli Centenary Education Project Conference evaluation

The following report is based on 31 evaluation forms completed on 14.3.2016 at the end of the conference, with additional comments from interviews filmed on the day. There were 53 delegates, some of whom were involved in administration and others left early. Taking this into account, 31 represents about a 70% return rate. The evaluation forms were anonymous, so the findings represent all delegates, adults and young people alike.

Section 1 – Quantitative findings

Participants were invited to respond to five statements about the conference.

1= Definitely agree 2= Mostly agree 3= Mostly disagree 4= Definitely disagree

	Percentages			
	1	2	3	4
Q1. The content of the event was what I expected	62	32	6	
The answers show that 94% agreed, so the content of the conference seems to have been appropriate.				
Q2. The time allocated for the event was appropriate	49	45	6	
94% agreed that the time as appropriate. 6% disagreed but it is not clear whether this means that it was too long or too short.				
Q3. The venue was suitable for this event	65	35		
100% agreed that the venue was suitable.				
Q4. Before the conference I knew a lot about Gallipoli	26	61	10	3
87% felt that they already knew a lot about Gallipoli, although most of these had some reservations, picking 'mostly' rather than 'strongly agree'. 13% of participants felt that they had limited prior knowledge. Nevertheless, this was a knowledgeable audience.				
Q5. After today my knowledge and understanding of Gallipoli has improved	71	23	3	3
94% felt that their knowledge had improved as a result of the conference, with the majority strongly agreeing.				

Interpretation

Feedback about the content of the day, the time allocated and the venue (Q. 1-3) was all over 90% positive (adding together 'definitely agree' and 'mostly agree' responses). Even though this was a knowledgeable audience, delegates felt that their knowledge about the subject had improved as a result of attending the conference (Q. 4 and 5).



GALLIPOLI 100
REMEMBERING



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Section 2 – New knowledge and understanding

Delegates were asked to identify something which they had found out during the day under the heading ‘**This is something I never knew about Gallipoli before today**’. The following quotes reflect the main areas of new knowledge.

International perspectives:

- *The ANZAC Day celebrations and the link between Turkey and Australia. I knew it was an important day but perhaps not how significant.*
- *The Australian and Turkish opinions and presentations were very interesting*
- *ANZAC day in Australia is very important*
- *ANZAC biscuits are like bricks*
- *Mustafa Kemal didn't play as big a role*
- *The contention regarding it being an Ottoman victory or a Turkish one!*
- *Been struck by the variety of perspectives and interpretations – the Turkish perspective esp. useful*
- *I didn't realise that Irish regiments fought in the campaign*
- *The different types and amount of views; the impact Gallipoli had on the countries involved.*

Broader comments about Gallipoli:

- *I had never considered the campaign from a national perspective in any detail.*
- *That so many other groups were involved*
- *Different interpretations of the event by the different countries involved*
- *[I was struck by] the diversity of the local perspectives*
- *I didn't know about the British submariners*
- *I learnt more about the submarines and other regiments – learnt a lot!*
- *Gallipoli is lesser known; I have learnt that an appreciation of the lesser known is a vehicle for consensus*

General FWW comments:

- *I didn't know that Princess Mary tins were sent out to soldiers*
- *I appreciated the scale of the First World War but this conference made it real: different accents, identities and histories all shared with professionalism by all speakers*

Interpretation

The question showed that the conference succeeded in broadening students' and teachers' horizons about Gallipoli. Having focussed on local and regional stories, participants had a strong grounding of knowledge about how the Campaign affected individuals and communities, but the national and international perspectives seem to have been a revelation to many, as shown by the quotes above. Clearly, the conference added to people's knowledge and understanding.



GALLIPOLI 100
REMEMBERING



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Section 3 – Attitudes

Question: Following the conference my attitudes (e.g. to Gallipoli, the First World War, war in general, international relations, etc.) have changed	Yes 42%	No 58%
---	-------------------	------------------

If they answered 'Yes' they were invited to give an example of how their attitudes had changed, and the following quotes reflect the results:

- *The conference has opened my eyes to what people really experienced and how much it has changed our lives today*
- *My feelings have become stronger and more emotional*
- *Consider Gallipoli in a more worldwide context*
- *I understand the other schools' perspectives*
- *I feel thankful to the men and women who fought for us*
- *I understand the international dimension more clearly*
- *I have a deeper understanding of the Turkish viewpoint*
- *I am more aware of how Australians / New Zealanders view Gallipoli*
- *It reminded me of all the conflicting politics / attitudes around Gallipoli and how it relates to the modern world*
- *A local perspective has resonance, this I knew. It forms a national consensus, this I appreciate. Sharing good practice on a global scale in the backdrop of a conflict moves us towards a one-world consensus. Together we learn from the past: war is war; conflict resolution is the legacy.*
- *How people's views are still changing towards it and sometimes being used to aid political ambitions*

Interpretation

The % results show that more people felt that their attitudes to Gallipoli had not changed as a result of the conference than had changed. Nevertheless 42% is an exceptionally high number of people who did feel that the conference had made them change their minds. The quotations show a range of changed attitudes, some based on improved knowledge about the place of Gallipoli in national and international history, others on a more emotional level linked to sacrifice, remembrance and global citizenship. That a conference could lead people to change their attitudes in this way is a significant achievement. Many of the comments in Section 4, below, also demonstrate changed attitudes.

Section 4 – General comments

Delegates were invited to add comments about aspects of the day, and the following quotes reflect the main findings:

- *Kobi was brilliant. Very moving.*
- *Kobi's presentation very powerful*
- *Guest speakers excellent, particularly Kobi*
- *Great to have insight into the variety of projects within the overall project*
- *Very good seeing other projects*
- *Interesting to hear from the different (e.g. Australian, Turkish) perspectives*



GALLIPOLI 100
REMEMBERING



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



- *Turkish perspective very helpful – lots to think about*
- *Good to be part of an international perspective for WW1*
- *[Would have liked] translations for the Irish film – hard to understand the film with no English – very few people speak Irish Gaelic*
- *10/10!*
- *Very good. I enjoyed it greatly*
- *Very much appreciated the gluten-free sandwiches 😊*
- *[Would have liked] a better range of presentations, so not so much ‘chalk and talk’!*
- *Loved the drama session!*
- *The range of presentations: nice to see the various routes taken, products created and insights gained; inspiring and thought-provoking.*
- *[Good to hear] young people’s voices, refreshing insight, see what touched and influenced them.*
- *A great way of learning about History – getting into the minds of those involved*
- *A lovely diversity of presentations: a lot of time and effort went into the various projects*
- *Loved the object handling workshop!*
- *So much more diverse than I expected. Exceeded expectations!*
- *Fantastic to have a trans-national element.*
- *Heartening. Inspiring. Encouraging. Empowering. Respecting. Co-operating. Sharing. Listening. Hearing. Speaking.*
- *The day could have been broken up a little more. There was a period in the middle that was too long without a break.*

Interpretation

Apart from the more practical comments on the catering, venue and timetable, delegates obviously felt that the conference had enabled them to gain a deeper awareness of Gallipoli, in particular by allowing them to hear different perspectives (a word that appears frequently in the feedback).

Conclusions from evaluation forms

The conference achieved positive feedback on many levels, including a 90% approval rate on the venue and programme. 94% felt that their knowledge of Gallipoli had improved as a result of the conference, and the comments demonstrate a range of levels of understanding, especially in relation to the national and international dimensions. A high percentage of delegates felt that the event had changed their attitudes, placing the Campaign in a contemporary context of differing national perspectives, or just raising awareness of the significance of the Gallipoli Campaign both as something that happened in history and as something which resonates strongly across the world today.

Additional comments from interviews

A film was made at the conference, recording the programme and also including interviews with participants – students, teachers and speakers. The following two quotations capture something of the importance of the event and of the project as a whole:



GALLIPOLI 100
REMEMBERING



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



With the transnationality of the soldiers and their stories, Gallipoli can be easily implemented into the curriculum as an example of the horrors of war but at the same time a good example of how reconciliatory rhetoric and discourse around Gallipoli can create friendship – ‘mateship’ – and can create a human side of politics.

Dr. Burçin Çakır, Glasgow Caledonian University

The important thing about engaging students in history such as Gallipoli is that they can relate to events in the past in a way that can then help them understand their present and give them a sense of what might be their responsibility for the future. We are who we are because of where we’ve come from, who we are now and what we intend to be and the fact that we are doing this with schoolchildren – who will be the leaders of tomorrow – is I think a very significant event and I am grateful for the Gallipoli project in making that happen.

Ian Potter, Headteacher, Bay House School, Hampshire

Robin Clutterbuck 12.5.2016